

covered
cables

Mubarak to visit U.S. in October

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak will have talks with President Reagan in October on the Middle East peace process during a visit to the United States to attend the U.N. General Assembly meeting, the semi-official newspaper 'Al-Ahram' reported Sunday. The daily newspaper quoted Prime Minister Kamal Hassan Ali, currently visiting Washington, as saying he discussed preparations for the visit, the second in one year, with senior American officials. It said Ali discussed an Egyptian plan with American officials on the next peace moves in the Middle East. He also delivered a message from Mr. Mubarak to Mr. Reagan on the issue, the newspaper reported but did not elaborate. Mr. Mubarak visited Washington in March during which he presented his plan suggesting the start of an American dialogue with a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation as a step to revive the Middle East peace process.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordanian Press Syndicate
جوردان تايمز يومية مستقلة تأسست عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

Filali flies to S. Arabia

RABAT (R) — Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdul Latif Filali left Sunday for Saudi Arabia, Syria and Lebanon with messages from King Hassan about a proposed extraordinary Arab summit, the Moroccan news agency said. Mr. Filali is the last of five special envoys sent to Arab capitals by the king with proposals for the summit which the Arab League has suggested should be held in the Moroccan city of Casablanca on July 28 and 29 to discuss the Palestinian problem. A final decision on whether the summit will take place is expected after Mr. Filali has returned, sources close to the government said. Lebanon and Syria are among the key states who have reservations about holding the summit.

Volume 10 Number 2925

AMMAN, MONDAY JULY 22, 1985, DHUL QAIDEH 5, 1405

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Regent sends good wishes to Belgium

AMMAN (Petra) — His Highness Prince Abdullah, the Regent, Sunday sent a cable of good wishes to King Baudouin of Belgium on his 60th birthday. Prince Abdullah, in his name and on behalf of the people and government of Jordan, wished King Baudouin continuing good health and the people of Belgium further progress and prosperity.

Hospice staff reject Israeli closure order

AMMAN (Petra) — The doctors and employees of the Hospice Hospital in occupied Jerusalem Sunday rejected a decision by the Israeli occupation authorities to close down the hospital, the only Arab hospital in the city. Reports from the West Bank said that the doctors and hospital staff affirmed that they will not stop treating patients and offering other medical services despite the Israeli pressure being exerted on them to close down the hospital by the end of the month.

Abe ends Saudi visit

BAHRAIN (R) — Japanese Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe left Saudi Arabia Sunday on his way home from a two-day visit and talks with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported. The two ministers reviewed Middle East and Gulf developments and bilateral issues, SPA said.

Berlin police hunt for Libyan suspects

BERLIN (AP) — Border police and customs officials searched Sunday for Libyan nationals suspected of planning to smuggle explosives from Berlin to West Germany, police said. Police were tipped off Saturday about a planned transfer of explosives and tightened controls at West Berlin's Tempel airport and road crossings leading out of the city, according to a police official who asked not to be named.

3 killed, 7 injured in Paris explosion

PARIS (AP) — A powerful explosion tore through a bakery Sunday, killing two people and injuring nine in the northern Paris suburb of Le Bourget, fire officials said. The two-storey building, with a bakery on the first floor and a three-room apartment above it, collapsed from the force of the explosion, according to a spokesman for the fire department headquarters in Paris.

Hernu urges research into use of space

BONN (R) — French Defence Minister Charles Hernu Sunday called for joint European research into the military use of space. He said in an interview with West German Radio that he had already formed a study group to look into the military uses of space and the development of military reconnaissance satellites. "It would be better if there was European cooperation in this area," Mr. Hernu said.

Peres expects U.S. 'clarifications' over Palestinian delegates

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres told his cabinet Sunday that he expected "clarifications" from the United States concerning a list of proposed Palestinian representatives who would join a team of Jordanian officials for preliminary talks with the U.S., a cabinet spokesman said.

Cabinet spokesman Yossi Beilin did not describe the nature of the "clarifications" anticipated by Mr. Peres, but Israel Radio said later U.S. Charge d'Affaires Robert Flatten verbally conveyed to the prime minister a message from U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz.

According to a senior official quoted by the Associated Press, Mr. Shultz assured Mr. Peres that any U.S. meeting with Palestinians would be aimed at direct Arab-Israeli peace talks. The official, who was not identified, said Mr. Shultz informed Mr. Peres that the seven-name Palestinian list was still under review by the U.S.

The official quoted the message as saying the United States did not feel any strain in relations with Israel over the list, which Mr. Peres rejected, leading to a public State Department rebuke of the

prime minister a few days earlier.

A State Department spokesman said on Thursday that while it would be solely up to the U.S. to decide whether or not to meet the proposed Palestinians, Washington was moving towards such a step which should eventually lead to direct Arab-Israeli talks.

It was not known whether the Shultz message contained the "clarifications" expected by Mr. Peres. Beilin said earlier Sunday that the prime minister had not sought any clarifications from the U.S. over the Palestinian list. Other Israeli officials, however, suggested that one clarification might be that the Reagan administration has been asked to choose only four Palestinians from the list for a meeting with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy in Amman, Jordanian Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri

said Saturday the meeting was expected to be held shortly.

According to Mr. Shultz, the list was submitted by Jordan and presumably had the approval of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), with whom the U.S. refuses to talk until it recognises Israel's right to exist.

Another Israeli official, quoted by Reuters, said he believed Israel would "allow" Palestinians on the list living in Israeli-occupied territories to attend the planned Amman meeting. According to this official Mr. Peres' objection to the list was because it "ignored leading Palestinian personalities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip" and opted for staunch supporters of the PLO and members of the Palestine National Council (PNC), the Palestinian parliament in exile.

The policy of the Israeli government has been an absolute refusal to talk to the PLO, and Israeli officials have expressed fears that the preliminary talks would lead to an eventual U.S. recognition of the PLO.

Briefing reporters Saturday in Washington, State Department Spokesman Robert Smalley said that the only way to achieve the goals of peace and security in the Middle East — "goals we share with all our friends — is through a process of complete and intensive consultations and discussions."

Lebanese villagers killed in Israeli raids

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — Israeli troops in helicopter gunships and armoured personnel carriers stormed two villages in South Lebanon Sunday, killing and capturing civilians suspected of supporting anti-Israeli resistance, witnesses said.

Three villagers were slain in the helicopter-borne assault against 'Abrikha, on the fringe of an Israeli self-styled "security" zone in the south, Beirut radio reported. In Tel Aviv, military sources said one commando was killed in a clash between Israeli troops and a group of resistance men at 'Abrikha.

In the second attack 18 kilometres northeast of 'Abrikha, Israeli troops firing automatic weapons and backed by militia of the South Lebanon Army (SLA) swept through Sejoud village in armoured personnel carriers and jeeps mounted with machineguns, witnesses said.

The troops and Israeli-backed militia men torched a mosque, several homes of money and jewellers, witnesses said. Some 100 inhabitants fled to the nearby hills, leaving only a handful of elderly men behind during the strike.

The Israelis set fire to the village mosque and four houses and stores and looted 10,000 Lebanese pounds (\$650) and jewellery from abandoned homes, witnesses said afterwards.

The attacks were the first by Israeli inside Lebanon since Israeli warplanes on July 10 strafed and bombed Palestinian refugee camps near the northern port of Tripoli, killing 24 people and wounding 87. The air strike was evidently in retaliation for two suicide car bombings which claimed the lives of two SLA militiamen and 13 others.

In the attack on 'Abrikha Israeli soldiers killed three men. United Nations Interim Forces in Lebanon (UNIFIL) spokesman Timur Goksel confirmed.

The area is patrolled by U.N. peacekeepers from Ghana.

Beirut Radio also reported that Israeli gunners pounded two other South Lebanon villages, Haris and Srobin, in the U.N. policed zone but there were no immediate reports of casualties.

Mr. Reagan, who underwent major surgery to remove a cancerous growth in his large intestine, returned home Saturday to brass bands, balloons and a rousing welcome from hundreds of people gathered outside the White House.

While keen to present a picture of a robust chief executive in control of day-to-day events, White House aides plan a tight schedule for Mr. Reagan Monday that includes a haircut and routine meetings with Vice President George Bush and White House Chief of Staff Donald Regan.

Mr. Reagan also intends to go ahead with his official welcoming duties for Chinese President Li Xianpan (See page 6).



His Majesty King Hussein, who returned home Sunday after a private visit to Britain, is received upon arrival by His Highness Prince Abdullah (Petra photo).

Israeli cabinet puts off debate on Soviet ties amid controversy

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The Israeli cabinet Sunday postponed a debate on relations with the Soviet Union amid concern that any restoration of ties had been hampered by disclosure of clandestine contacts between the two countries.

Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir had planned to report on a secret meeting between the Israeli and Soviet ambassadors to France. But the cabinet decided to put off the discussion until a later date, a cabinet spokesman said. He gave no reason.

On Friday Israel Radio reported that such a meeting took place last week in Paris, and that the Soviet ambassador offered a package deal for increasing Jewish immigration to Israel and restoring diplomatic links in return for an end to anti-Soviet propaganda in the West and an Israeli-Syrian agreement on the Golan Heights.

Israeli officials voiced concern Sunday that the report could be harmful. Successive Israeli governments have striven to renew the relationship severed by Moscow in the 1967 Middle East war.

Communications Minister Amnon Rubinstein said: "If the government can't conduct such talks discreetly, it's extremely dangerous. This phenomenon must be stopped."

Prime Minister Shimon Peres refused to answer a question about the meeting between Soviet Ambassador Yuri Voronitsov and Israeli envoy Ovdiya Sofer when asked about it at Sunday's cabinet meeting, said Cabinet Secretary Yossi Beilin.

The Jerusalem Post daily and Israel Television said Mr. Shamir and Foreign Ministry Director-General David Kimche were also

Peres sends message to Gorbachev

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres sent a message to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev saying he hoped the two countries could reach agreement on a wide range of subjects, Israel Radio said Sunday.

Mr. Peres entrusted the oral message to Edgar Bronfman, president of the World Jewish Congress, who is scheduled to visit Moscow next month, the radio reported.

Mr. Peres told Mr. Bronfman at a meeting last Monday, that Israel wanted a renewal of the diplomatic ties which the Soviets severed in 1967. Mr. Peres was quoted by a participant in the meeting as saying Israel saw the new leadership of Mr. Gorbachev as a "new opportunity" for establishing ties.

He said the leak and feared it could harm the chances for future contacts.

News of the meeting at the Paris home of Israeli musician Daniel Barenbaum apparently leaked to the radio because Mr. Sofer's report to the Foreign Ministry was given a classification below top secret and distributed to a large number of people in the government, officials told the AP.

The independent newspaper Maariv quoted senior officials as saying, headline opponents had leaked the report to scuttle Soviet efforts to join the Middle East peace process.

The Soviet news agency TASS said the reported deal over resumption of relations was "totally groundless." But the agency did not deny that the meeting took place.

Government officials said Sunday Israel and the Soviet Union are trying to arrange a meeting of their foreign ministers during the U.N. General Assembly in October.

The foreign ministers of the two countries have met frequently at the annual meeting in New York despite the fact Moscow cut diplomatic ties 18 years ago, said the officials who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity.

The officials said a meeting between Mr. Shamir and newly appointed Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze would be only one of several meetings Mr. Shamir will hold with top officials from countries which have no official ties with Israel.

But the Israeli daily Hadashot said the Soviets were likely to cancel the meeting following the publication of secret Paris meeting.

In New York, a published report said Sunday Israel has told the United States that it had information that Anatoly F. Dobrynin, the Soviet ambassador to the United States, may be replaced by Mr. Voronitsov. According to the New York Times, U.S. officials said Israel told them last week that Mr. Voronitsov may be in line to replace Mr. Dobrynin, who has been ambassador to the United States for more than 23 years.

The U.S. officials, who were not named, said the Israeli report was based on the Paris meeting between Mr. Voronitsov and Mr. Sofer.

King returns from Britain

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein returned home Sunday evening at the end of a private visit to the United Kingdom where he met with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and other British officials to discuss efforts being exerted by Jordan for a just and durable peace in the Middle East.

King Hussein was greeted upon arrival by His Highness Prince Abdullah, the Speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al-Jasem, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ed Ibn Zaid, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, cabinet members, senior government officials and high-ranking army officers.

Returning with the King were Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai, and Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker.

During his visit to the United Kingdom the King attended performances by the Arab army's bands at the Earls Court arena in London. Jordan was the only Arab country to be represented in the annual British tournament.

King Hussein also visited an exhibition displaying facets of Jordanian life in pictures, posters and other items including a bedouin tent, and a documentary film show on Jordan, its archaeological sites and the development of the Jordanian Armed Forces.

The King was accompanied by Gen. Sharif Zaid, the Jordanian ambassador to London and army officers. Later he attended a reception hosted by the armed forces and attended by representatives of the Arab community in Britain, Arab ambassadors, and other guests.

Masri, Soviet envoy review relations

AMMAN (J.T.) — Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri Sunday discussed with Soviet Ambassador to Jordan Alexander Zinchuk relations between the Soviet Union and Jordan in light of the latest political developments in the Middle East, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, reported.

Mr. Masri and Mr. Zinchuk also reviewed the Soviet Union's relations with all countries in the area, Petra said. It did not elaborate.

Mr. Masri's meeting with Mr. Zinchuk followed a recent Israeli report that the Soviet Union would be willing to renew diplomatic relations with Israel and permit unrestricted Jewish immigration in exchange for an Israeli-Syrian agreement on the Golan Heights and an end to anti-Soviet propaganda in the West.

This report was described as "totally groundless" by the official Soviet news agency, TASS. Mr. Masri Saturday announced that a high-ranking Soviet official will be visiting Jordan soon to discuss matters related to the Soviet stand vis-a-vis the Feb. 11 agreement between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Informal sources told the Jordan Times Sunday that the deputy director of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Middle East Department is expected to arrive on Tuesday. The sources did not have the name of the envoy. They said there are a number of deputy directors in the Middle East department in Moscow and did not know who was coming to Amman.

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8 killed in inter-Druze fighting in Bekaa

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — At least eight people were killed and 19 wounded in a two-day firefight between rival Druze factions in southeast Lebanon, police said Sunday.

A police statement said Syrian troops in tanks and armoured personnel carriers intervened on Saturday to stop the fighting that broke out in the western Bekaa Valley village of Aiba Friday.

The statement said rocket-propelled grenades and automatic rifles were used in the fighting. But it did not identify the warring factions beyond describing them as "rival Druze groupings."

It was the first official reported incident of inter-Druze fighting since Lebanon's decade-old civil war broke out in April, 1975, pitting Falangists against a coalition of Shiite Muslim, Sunni Muslim, and Druze communities.

The Beirut newspaper Al Amal of president Amin Gemayel's Falange Party said the Aiba hostilities involved newly formed pro-Syrian Druze groupings and militiamen of Lebanon's Transport Minister Walid Junblat's Progressive Socialist Party (PSP).

The PSP is the standard bearer of Lebanon's 200,000-strong Druze sect. The party fields the best trained and best armed militia in this Mediterranean nation of four million inhabitants.

The police statements and Beirut newspaper accounts were vague about what sparked off the Aiba fighting. The leftist newspaper As Safir said the shooting started with an attack on a cluster

of Aiba houses belonging to the Abu Latif family.

The police statement showed three of the dead were from Abu Latif family, including lawyer Kamal Abu Latif.

Meanwhile Falangist and opposition gunners fought artillery duels across the Green Line dividing Beirut Saturday, the fifth day of a Syrian-sponsored security plan.

Police reported at least six civilians killed and 11 wounded in the clashes as the dominant militia army in mainly Muslim west Beirut announced its support for Damascus proposed talks between Falangists and the opposition to restore peace.

Houses and apartment blocks on either side of the five-kilometre line were hit in the fighting, the worst since the security plan for west Beirut was implemented last Tuesday.

As the fighting faded a deputy to Shiite Amal militia leader Nabih Berri, told a news conference his movement "supports a national conference in Damascus and we hope it can be held very soon."

The security plan for west Beirut was endorsed early this month by 13 main Muslim leaders, and including three leading Muslim militias. But Falangist soldiers and militias who control east Beirut,

the seat of the government, were not immediately included.

Saturday's fighting was between west Beirut militias still permitted to keep their arms along the Green Line under the security plan and Falangists, police sources said.

The security plan, supervised by a coordination committee comprising seven Lebanese including militia commanders and Syrian army officers, called for the dismantling and removal of all militias from the city centre and surrounding neighbourhoods and their replacement by government troops and police.

Since implemented, there was only one officially acknowledged violation of the agreement between the Amal, Druze and Sunni militias. On Friday, gunmen firing from a speeding car shot and wounded a Druze militia commander near the heart of the capital.

Syria has said that the security plan should be extended to west Beirut after all-party talks between Falangists and opposition leaders.

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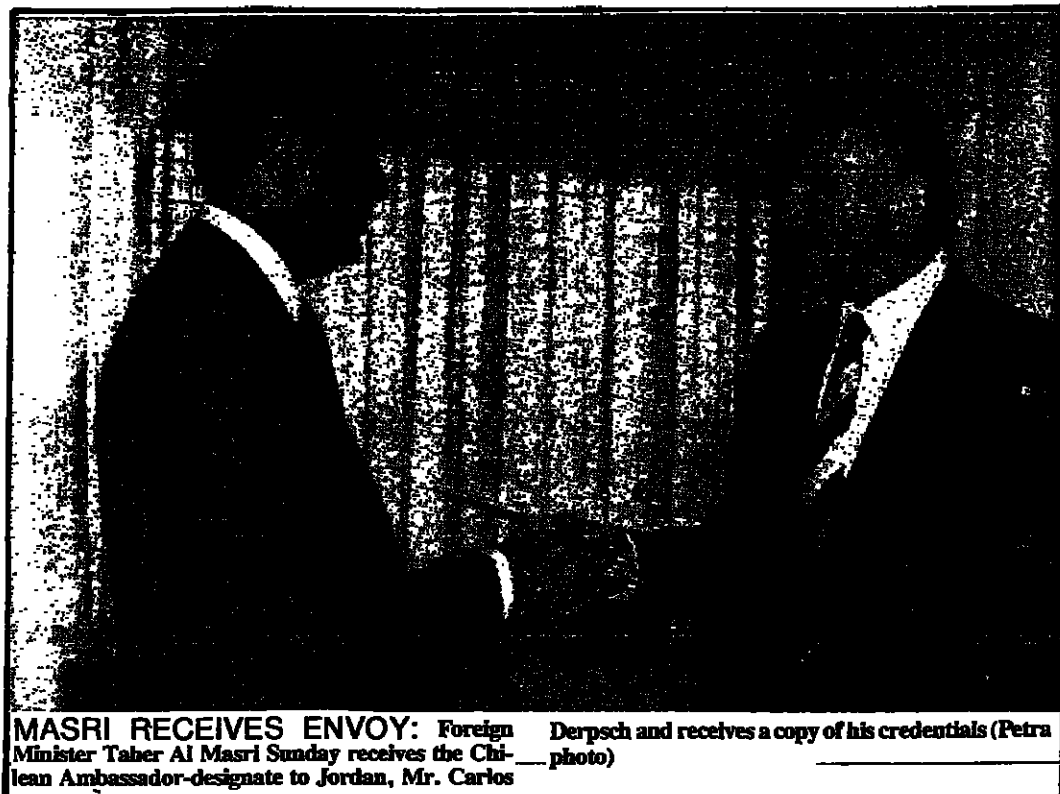
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MASRI RECEIVES ENVOY: Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri Sunday receives the Chilean Ambassador-designate to Jordan, Mr. Carlos Derpsch and receives a copy of his credentials (Petra photo)

'West Bank universities face financial problems, harassment by Israelis'

AMMAN (Petra) — The most chronic problems which West Bank Arab universities face at the moment are those related to financial matters and the continuing harassment to their staff, administration and students by the Israeli authorities, Vice President of Hebron University Yunis Amer said in a statement here Sunday.

Speaking in an interview with the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, Dr. Amer said that the Israeli authorities place obstacles in the path of Arab educational institutions to impede their educational process and sometimes resort to closing down universities to obstruct their programmes.

"Furthermore, constant harassments by Israeli settlers to Arab university students are very common," Dr. Amer added. He said that the Hebron University was attacked by settlers in 1983 with hand grenades and machine guns causing the death of three students and the injury of 33 others.

Outlining the development of Hebron University Dr. Amer said that it was established in 1971 and so far it turned out 650 graduates most of whom are employed in educational institutions and Awqaf departments in the occupied West Bank. "At present, 1,800 students are enrolled at Hebron University which employs local and foreign teachers to give lectures in various specialisations."

He said that the university has sustained on students fees and contributions that come from donors inside and outside the occupied Arab lands.

The secretary-general who will go to Morocco from London where he is attending a seminar, will also discuss the preparations for the 16th OIC foreign ministers conference scheduled to be held in Rabat in the second half of December.

The settlers have also set up a new council to look into ways of

established by a unilateral declaration of independence in November 1983, was approved by 54 per cent of the electorate. Of the votes cast in favour it has been estimated that 35-40 per cent came from the mainland settlers.

This new constitution enabled Mr. Denktash, who has twice held the presidential post since 1975, to succeed himself and granted to the president exceptional powers comparable to and even exceeding those enjoyed by the generals who govern Turkey, and permits the president to decide a party's eligibility to participate in politics.

In the June 9 presidential election, Mr. Denktash, standing as a non-party candidate, won 70 per cent of the vote (in 80 per cent of the vote) against five competing candidates. Once again the vote of the Republic of Northern Cyprus,

mainland settlers was a decisive factor in an election where 30 per cent of the voters rejected Mr. Denktash and 20 per cent abstained.

In the June 23 parliamentary election, Mr. Denktash's right of centre National Unity party tied with the combined votes of the opposition — the sides each obtaining 37 per cent of the vote. The National Unity Party obtained 24 seats while the leftist Republican Turkish Party (of Alpi Durduran) won 10 seats. Four seats went to the right-wing New Dawn Party, supported by the mainland settlers, whose previous party held only one seat. Thus in the expanded 50-member assembly, Mr. Denktash will still have to rely on the settlers' party for a majority. Of the two opposition parties, the more ready to make concessions

to the Greek Cypriots in negotiations, the Republican Turkish party, has doubled its representation.

This polarisation in the Turkish Cypriot community has been formalised as the U.N. secretary-general, Perez de Cuellar, has been making final preparations for the resumption of talks, at summit level, on a Cyprus settlement. In April the Greek Cypriot side reportedly accepted an amended text of a draft agreement as the basis for discussions while Mr. Denktash postponed consideration of the draft until after the three polls. But during the constitutional referendum and election campaigns Mr. Denktash repeatedly stated that the Turkish Cypriot side had withdrawn all the concessions it made during the

proximity talks held in the last quarter of 1984. He would no longer agree to the reduction of the Turkish territorial holding from 37 to 29 per cent, to the return of a certain number of Greek Cypriot refugees to their homes in the Turkish-held area and to the withdrawal of Turkish troops from the island. Such statements, along with Mr. Denktash's refusal to commit himself to a date for talks, have threatened U.N. efforts to

resume negotiations on the basis of the secretary-general's April 12 statement (leaked to a right-wing Greek Cypriot newspaper on June 20 which showed that some progress has been made since the talks broke off in January on both procedural and substantive issues

Middle East International, London.

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Rains break drought in south east Sudan

CAIRO (Agencies) — Heavy rains have "broken" the drought in south western Sudan and Sudanese are now harvesting maize and groundnuts and planting seeds for new crops, a Western aid source in Khartoum said Sunday.

Only a few weeks ago, the rains had seriously disrupted the transportation of relief food to some 500,000 malnourished Sudanese in the south western Lakes district, as well as at least 1.5 million refugees from neighbouring Ethiopia, Chad, Zaïre and Uganda in camps in eastern and western Sudan.

"The famine has broken in the Lakes district as they have started to harvest maize and groundnuts," said the source who declined to be further identified for diplomatic reasons. He was reached from Cairo.

"Everyone is now planting like mad, and the south would seem to be over the worst," he said. "I expect a super harvest if rains continue through August."

"Wau has good rains, so has south Kordofan," said the source. "Wau is in the southern Bahr El Ghazal region, and Kordofan is the region immediately north of it."

"Even (Sudanese capital) Khartoum is getting rain. I am not able to comment on refugees in the east and west as I have not been there," the source said. "However rains should help, it seems it is good rains."

During the three-day summit which ended Saturday, the Sudanese leader, installed after the coup, held talks with Ethiopian leader Mengistu Haile Mariam as well as representatives of Sudanese rebels fighting from bases in the largely Christian and animist southern region against the Arab-dominated north.

Sudan previously supported rebel groups fighting government troops in Ethiopia's northern Eritrean and Tigray provinces, and Libya opposed the government of Sudan's former President Jaafar Numeiri, ousted in an April 6 coup.

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PLO chairman meets American academics

AMMAN (R) — A group of American university academics, ministers, and administrators met PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat Sunday, a PLO spokesman said.

The academics said they were visiting the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and Jordan on a two-week tour, arranged by a U.S. organization supporting Palestinian rights, to gather information on academic freedom and the problems of universities under occupation.

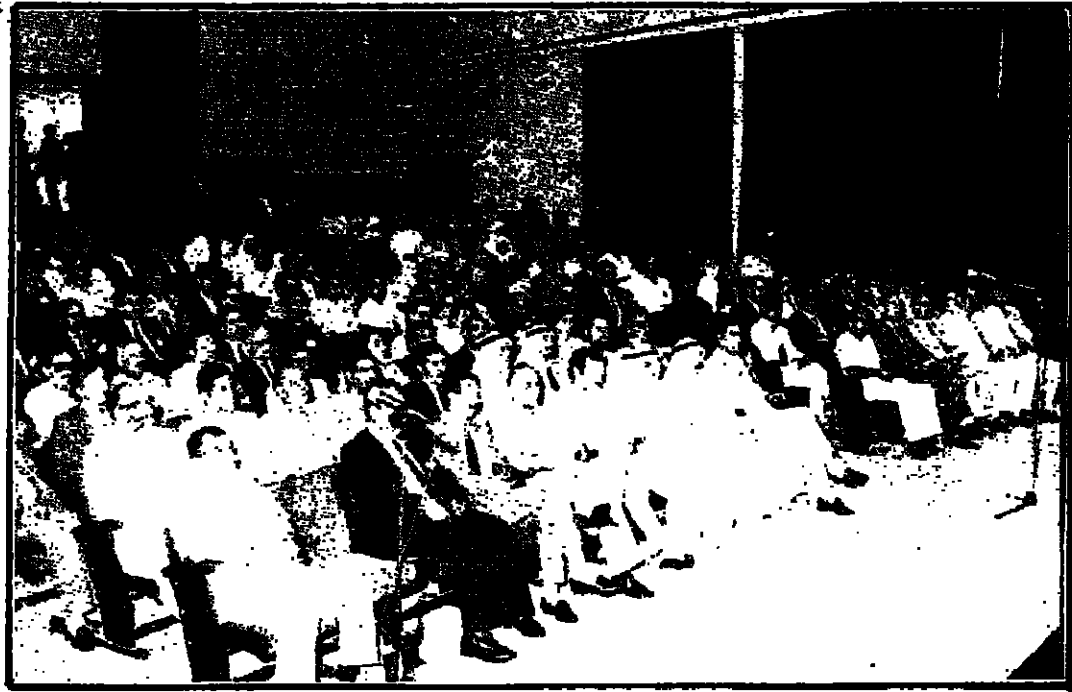
They said they had heard the PLO's viewpoint on the Middle East question at their meeting with Mr. Arafat.

"The real reason we came was to observe and study the conditions of Palestinians living under

occupation in order to better understand their situation and to be able to be more effective in the American political context on behalf of the people of Palestine," Cheryl Rubenburg, a professor at Miami's Florida International University told Reuters.

John Masterson, from Michigan State University, said the Israeli settlements built on the West Bank were part of a repression that was far deeper and more uniform than he had expected.

"I now see it as an institutionalized boot of repression," he said, adding that the group had driven from Jerusalem to Gaza and had seen hundreds of Palestinian towns destroyed by the Israelis since 1948.



Jordanian expatriates during their visit to the University of Jordan where they saw a documentary film on the university's development (Petra photo)

Kana'an, Favez brief Swiss deputy on Israeli malpractices, Mideast issues

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Taher Kana'an Sunday conferred with Mr. Bernard Depont, a member of the Swiss parliament who is currently on a visit to Jordan.

They reviewed the current situation in the occupied Arab territories and Israeli arbitrary measures against the Arab population and the obstacles Israel places in path of Arabs trying to carry out industrial and agricultural projects.

The minister spoke about Israel's settlement policies and their adverse effect on the living conditions and economic, cultural and health and social life in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip. He also referred to Israel's seizure of Arab land and its con-

stant drive to evict Arabs from their homeland.

Mr. Kana'an also said that Israel has been barring Palestinians from returning to their homeland although they were outside the occupied territories when the 1967 war broke out.

The minister also referred to Israel's closure of Arab universities and other educational institutions in the occupied West Bank and discussed the harassment of Arab students and teachers.

Mr. Depont was later received by Mr. Akef Al Favez, speaker of the Lower House of Parliament. They reviewed the Palestine problem and Mr. Favez explained Jordan's views, with regard to Middle East developments and also the objectives of the joint

Jordanian-Palestinian moves on the Arab and European scenes.

He said that the joint moves are designed to bring about a just and durable settlement to the Palestine problem. Mr. Depont for his part voiced Europe's concern over the developments in the Middle East region and said that the Arabs have a just cause.

Mr. Depont said that his visit to Jordan was upon a request from the president of the European parliament with the aim of making a close hand study of the situation in the region in the light of the Jordanian-Palestinian accord, signed in Amman on Feb. 11.

Nsour, officials respond to expatriates' questions on the economy, labour policies

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Minister of Planning Abdullah Al Nsour Sunday stated that the government will apply export specifications on Jordanian goods in order to safeguard local production and to maintain the good reputation and credibility of Jordanian industrial products abroad.

"These procedures will reflect positively on Jordanian exports as they will ensure these goods are of high standards and will enable them to compete on regional and international markets," Dr. Nsour said but he did not elaborate.

The minister was speaking in response to questions raised by Jordanian expatriates during the second day of a four-day conference on Jordanians living abroad, which opened in Amman Saturday.

Expatriates who met during their second session Sunday discussed two working papers on the Jordanian economy and the labour force. Contents of these two papers raised 200 questions, but the conference's secretariat, which is chaired by Minister of Labour and Social Development Khalid Haj Hassan, managed to answer 41 questions and promised the conferees that written replies will be sent to each enquiry.

The Jordanian economy paper stated the overall situation in the country, and Jordan's development projects and planning with special concentration on pre-

sent investment facilities as well as listing several facilities which are granted to encourage investment in various sectors.

In response to a question on inflation in Jordan raised by a Brazilian expatriate, Dr. Nsour pointed out that Jordan has a low inflation rate compared to international standards, since inflation in the country does not exceed 3.4 per cent.

Another expatriate asked about the poverty line in Jordan and Mr. Nsour replied that no scientific field surveys have been carried out to estimate the so-called "poverty line". However, Jordan's per capita income is \$1,848, which he said is high when compared to other unindustrialised countries.

"When the Jordanian government asks for long-term loans to carry out developmental projects, creditors usually say that the country is not eligible for grants as it has a very high per capita income," Dr. Nsour said.

"If Jordan has a free economy, why does the Ministry of Supply import goods and interfere in fixing prices," a participant asked. In

response, the chairman of the Jordanian Federation of Commerce Chambers, Mr. Hamdi Tabbara said: "The ministry is only importing the country's basic commodities such as meat, wheat, sugar and rice. All other commodities are imported by local merchants."

Dr. Nsour also stressed that the Jordanian government has never imposed any restrictions or income tax on money earned by expatriates or on their revenues.

In response to a question raised by Mr. Anis Maitallah from Kuwait on government plans to privatise public concerns and industries, Dr. Nsour said that there are plans to privatise the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) in which the government has invested JD 300,000.

The second paper, which tackled the Jordanian labour force and government policy on labour, defined the characteristics of the labour force and the legal framework of labour market on the export of Jordanian labour and the import of non-Jordanian labour. The paper was presented by Ministry of Labour Under Secretary Saleh Khasawneh who said: "Jordan experiences a phenomenon which is rarely found in any other country of the globe. We import and export labour and at the same time we have unemployment among a highly educated class, the doctors and engineers, whilst we lack skilled vocational trainees."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Australian speaker concludes visit

AMMAN (Petra) — Australian parliament speaker Henry Jenkins left Amman Sunday after a five-day visit to Jordan during which he met with His Highness Prince Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein, the Regent. Mr. Jenkins also met Lower House of Parliament Speaker Akef Al Favez, Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Wahab Majali and a number of senior officials. The Australian speaker was briefed on the latest developments in the Middle East region, Jordan's efforts to secure a just and durable peace in the area and the Jordanian-Palestinian accord. Mr. Jenkins also reviewed with Jordanian officials bilateral relations, especially in the parliamentary field.

GFJW reviews cooperation with U.N. fund

AMMAN (Petra) — The social committee of the General Federation of Jordanian Women (GFJW) met Sunday and discussed cooperation between the federation and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA). The committee discussed the possibility of UNFPA financing a number of projects to improve and develop the women's situation in the country during the coming years. The committee also reviewed the fund's financing of a project for the improvement of rural women's skills, education and potential in order to increase their income.

Transport minister leaves for Iraq

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Transport Farhi Obaid left for the Iraqi capital of Baghdad Sunday heading a delegation from the public and private sectors on an official visit to Iraq. The delegation will hold talks with Iraqi officials on bilateral relations in transport field. Mr. Obaid will meet with the Iraqi minister of transport and communications and with a number of Iraqi government officials for talks on bilateral relations in land, sea and air transport to strengthen the brotherly relations linking the two countries.

Jordan to attend U.S. youth festival

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan is to participate in an annual youth festival to be held in Los Angeles in the United States towards the end of October. A cabinet statement Sunday said that representatives of youth clubs in Jordan will attend the week-long festival.

Enchanting classics from renowned Australian duo

By Sana Kassar
Special to the Jordan Times

JERASH — An enchanting evening with the Australian duo of Vernon Hill and John Luxton performing classical pieces was one of the events at the Fourth Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts. Their numbers included sonatas and pieces by Mozart, Godard, Prokofiev, Donizetti, Bartok and Australian composer Graham Powning.

Vernon Hill, one of the Australia's most prominent flute players, excelled in his performance. He has played with the Juensland Symphony, the Sydney Symphony and the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra. Mr. Hill has toured North America, China, England, Hungary and Yugoslavia.

Among the pieces played at the festival was a delightful sonata by Mozart, written when he was ten. This captured the audience's breath with its sweet melody and merry tune. Prokofiev's Sonata in D Major reflected the excellent ability and fine technique in shifting mood and style with harmony and grace as the movements



swayed along classical and improvised lines with slight undertones of Russian folk tunes. John Luxton played a piano solo Ballade by Chopin with feeling and style.

Another enjoyable and easy-listening piece was Donizetti's Operetta "Sonatina" where the flute acted as a substitute for the human voice bringing out the melody with charm while the piano punctuated the flow soothingly. The last piece was a medley of Hungarian songs by Bartok which took us to the rural countryside of folk festivity, character and simplicity.

The recital was both delightful and enjoyable; a performance of clarity, good style and merry melodies pleasing both young and old.



The Egypt National Folklore Troupe present their popular show depicting aspects of Egyptian cultural heritage (Photo by Youssef Al 'Alwan)

National troupe presents rich display of Egyptian culture

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

JERASH — The Egypt National Folklore Troupe, a company of 4 singers, dancers and instrumentalists, performed the "Festival of the Nile Show" covering various popular and traditional displays of artistry from one of the oldest civilisations on earth at the Fourth Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts.

The mesmerising two-hour show held more than one thousand spectators spellbound. The sight and sound of the tall, lean instrumentalists, in flowing ankle-length robes, playing their various reeds, strings, nays and tablas gave one an immediate sense of their ancient, well-preserved culture.

The twenty-four male and female dancers along with three female oriental dancers kept the show going at full speed to the end. The festival of the Nile was no doubt authentic and its performers displayed their folk art in an impressive and subtle way.

The entire show was an extravaganza of colour, pageantry and physical prowess. The costumes were monochromatic, the dances were simple and expressive covering Egyptian regions and traditions, such as "Al Nowbah Dance," from the south of Egypt, "Um el Khouloul" from the Suez Canal area, "Al Haggalah" from Marsa Matruh and "Al Gawayzi" from Egypt's Saïd-rural areas. The music was melodic, provocative and enthusiastic.

Some of the dances were performed in as an interpretation of the music since they depended heavily on the musical beat. An example was Raksat al Eish or the bread dance in which the three female oriental dancers excelled. The total performance of preparing bread, inserting it into the oven and eating it was carried out in a highly disciplined and complex manner. The three dancers in their glittering, rich costumes presented a strong contrast to the browns, greens and whites that predominated the rest of the show.

The movements were certainly sensuous whilst other dances required acrobatic feats such as dancing with a 35-pound candlestick on the two female dancers' heads and this dance was one of the most beautiful which topped the show.

Aspects of life

The performers delighted the audience with their repertoire of ritualistic and folkloric songs and dances which depicted various aspects of the environment, lifestyle and heritage and provided beautiful fascinating spectacles. Another attraction of the show was an old nays player, who performed a nays show on his own and depicted yet another aspect of Egyptian culture.

One of the most entertaining skits was a show put on by two men wearing a horse's outfit. They would perform various comic movements like belly dancing, wiggling their torsos or attempting to bite one of the belly dancers.

The fisherman dance, another delight of the show and required acrobatic movements like rowing the canoe. The male dancers used every part in their body to illustrate fishing accompanied by music and beautiful lighting techniques.

The exciting mixture of cultural heritage and different ethnic backgrounds provided a heart-capturing, spectacular and educational stage show as audiences were amazed at their beautiful stage pictures, groupings, richness of costumes and highly synchronized, professional movements and dances.

The 23-year old group is sponsored by the Egyptian Ministry of Culture and has represented Egypt at different festivals in France, the United Kingdom, Vienna, the U.S. Mexico, Germany and other countries.

The entire company is composed of 30 male and 30 female dancers, 75 musicians and chorists. But such a large number of performers were unable to attend the festival so the group was reduced to 12 female and 12 male dancers, 4 instrumentalists and the 10 production team members.

By Monika Warich
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Agricultural Processing and Manufacturing Company of Jordan is presently going through an "unstable phase of development" according to a senior official at the company. The company is 51 per cent government-owned and 49 per cent of its shares belong to private shareholders.

Recently, an ad-hoc committee to run the company was appointed by Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Rajai Muasher, after the resignation of more than half of the members of the board of the company, and Mr. Marwan Dudin, a former minister of agriculture, was appointed chairman. Only a short time ago, the private subscribers for shares of the company have been asked to pay for the second quarter of their shares, says Mr. Dudin.

The Agricultural Processing and Manufacturing Company of Jordan has to work according to government policies, particularly in the pricing sector, he told the Jordan Times. This means that it often has to buy vegetables for processing at a minimum set price, which is often higher than the auction price of the particular day, in order to keep a minimum price level for the sake of the farmers and the company also has to make sure that the products such as tomato paste are available to consumers at reasonable prices.

Tomato processing

The main activity of the company at the moment is the processing of tomatoes, as now the season is at its peak, says Mr. Dudin. Six hundred tons of tomatoes are processed daily by the factory into tomato paste, and the machines are working 24 hours a day. For maintenance, it is necessary to stop the whole factory for one day in approximately every ten days, which is normal

considering the heavy work load it has to cope with at present. The farmers, however, complain about these stoppages as they then lose a full day's production, he adds. In addition to this, about 700 to 1,000 tons of tomatoes daily are exported by the private sector, mainly to the Gulf States, where the tomato season has already finished, while the local market absorbs another 300 tons every day. Only about 100 tons per day can be sold or processed, Mr. Dudin estimates, and the rest is left to rot or are destroyed.

There are plans for the processing and marketing company to extend its range of products with the production of peeled tomatoes and tomato juice, for which a high demand is supposed to exist in Jordan.

Cropping patterns

But even so, the tomato production in the country exceeds the demand, says Mr. Dudin. He calls for a limitation of the tomato growing area. He agrees with the recommendations of the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD) which called for the introduction of a cropping pattern to reduce the tomato and cucumber growing areas.

During a conference held in Jordan early this year, the AOAD also suggested the diversification of crops in general.

The conference recommended that the area for the growing of cucumbers should be restricted, to reduce the considerable glut every summer. Cucumbers cannot be processed apart from pickling, the demand for which is easily met by the present production.

The tendency of Jordanian farmers to embark on seemingly profitable activities, such as the growing of fruit, which initially pay well, leads quickly to a slump in prices as the products flood the market. Recommendations for cropping patterns to be observed by the farmers



Graded, packed tomatoes ready for the domestic market or export (J.T. file photo)

mers will not be enough in Mr. Dudin's opinion, taking into account this tendency by the farmers. He rather prefers a licensing system and linking a cropping pattern, with water supply.

Outlining the company's plans for the future, Mr. Dudin said that it should follow up plans to export fruit and vegetables to European countries. Experimental shipments of sweet peppers, egg plants, onions and other vegetables to the U.K., Austria, West Germany and Switzerland have been carried out and are presently being evaluated and the data collected from these shipments could serve to start an export programme to Europe in the future.

he said. In addition to this, the company is working to improve the packing of fruit and vegetables by devising a uniform container for packing and transport. Mr. Dudin said. Presently, containers made of wood or styrofoam are being used.

As the processing and marketing company is, as Mr. Dudin stresses, a "government tool", and as such has to operate according to government policies, it cannot take advantage of low prices during the peak season of fruit and vegetables. So in order to cover payments due to tomato farmers,

the Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) will provide financial facilities of up to JD 1 million, as was recently approved by the cabinet.

Both the stabilization of market prices and the exploration of new markets, another important task of the company, though important for the further development of efficient processing and marketing of agricultural products in Jordan, are not according to profitability, Mr. Dudin pointed out.

'Special status'

However, the company does not enjoy the same tax exemptions which normally apply to the public sector. Mr. Dudin calls for the drafting of a law on marketing which should give the company special status so that it can efficiently implement government policies and act as price consolidator for agricultural products.

He has been appointed chairman of the ad-hoc committee for a ninety-day period to guarantee the execution of the programme of processing and exporting vegetables by the company during the current peak season. He will also work out a report on its operations, giving recommendations on the future handling of business which is due at the beginning of August.

Iraq reports attack on ship

(Continued from page 1)

Shintaro Abe had told his Saudi counterpart he had found no change in Iran's attitude during a visit to Tokyo early this month by a top Iranian official.

Iran has so far rejected Iraqi calls for a general ceasefire in the 57-month-old war, demanding that the Baghdad government should be punished as the aggressor.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal was reported as having told Mr. Abe during nearly three hours of talks here that he had found no change in the Iranian position when he visited Tehran earlier this year.

Mr. Kagami reported Mr. Abe as having said that the visit to Tokyo of Iran's Parliamentary Speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani had been useful however in relaying Japan's thinking.

Following his talks with Mr.

Abe, Prince Saud said Saturday that the Arab powers of the Gulf region "pinned much hope" on Japan's role in ending the 58-month-old war.

"There are special efforts being exerted by Japan towards that end and we in the kingdom and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) pin much hope on Japan's stand and role to find a settlement to this case," Prince Saud was quoted as telling the Saudi Press Agency.

The Gulf war has been one of Mr. Abe's major preoccupations during his Middle East tour.

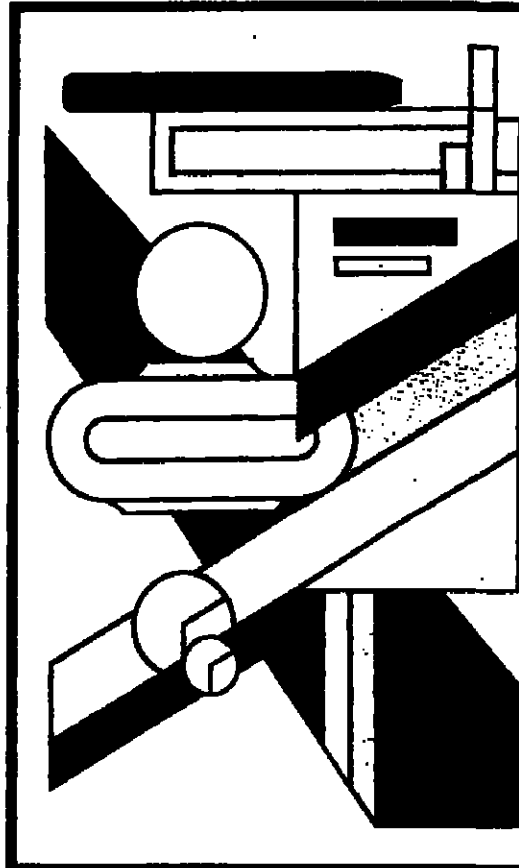
He had a brief meeting with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz in Amman, and Kagami quoted him as saying Sunday Mr. Aziz told him Baghdad had stopped its attacks on Iranian cities.

President Saddam Hussein announced a 15-day moratorium on strikes against Iranian cities on June 15, and there have been no reports of attacks since then.

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Outgoing Lebanese ambassador believes Lebanon crisis is organically related to Palestine question

By Lamis K. Andoni

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Like many of his countrymen, Mr. Samir Hobeika, Lebanon's ambassador to Jordan, is deeply distressed by the surge of violence that has engulfed his strife-ridden country, but strongly believes that peace and tranquillity cannot be restored in Lebanon until the core of the crisis, namely the Palestinian question, is adequately redressed.

"The Lebanese crisis and the ensuing wave of terrorism that has plagued Lebanon was caused by the repression and injustice suffered by the Palestinian people as a result of consecutive Israeli aggressions against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples", Mr. Hobeika says.

"But that does not mean that we, the Lebanese, condone acts of terrorism. Lebanon has condemned and shall always denounce terrorism. But the roots that generated violence and terrorism should not be ignored," he adds. The Lebanese ambassador spoke to the Jordan Times in an interview to mark the end of his tour of duty in Jordan which lasted for two years.

According to the 45-year-old diplomat, failure to solve the Palestinian question "has entrenched hatred towards American policies in the area."

Mr. Hobeika expresses deep disappointment at the U.S. boycott of Beirut's airport and of Lebanese airlines. The American administration decided to isolate Beirut's international airport following the hijacking of a TWA plane by Shi'ite militiamen last June.

"America can only help Lebanon through rendering full support to the legitimate government to enable it from spreading its authority and control and not by isolating the airport," the ambassador said.

Mr. Hobeika has served in different posts in the Lebanese foreign service that took him between the Middle East and Latin America for over 20 years. Thus

he had to deal with the dramatic and unpredictable shifts in the Lebanese political scene and adjust to the consequent changes as a spokesman for his turbulence-torn country.

In his view, Lebanon used to be "an example of co-existence among minorities and different ethnic groups."

Lebanon's constitution of 1943, which laid the foundations for division of power among the different Lebanese sects, had established "an equilibrium that guaranteed stability in the country over the years."

But failure to find a solution for the Palestinian problem and the consequent Israeli aggressions "have drastically disrupted the prevailing equilibrium", Mr. Hobeika says, without elaborating.

A lawyer by education, Mr. Hobeika started his diplomatic career in 1964 when he became in charge of expatriates' affairs at the Lebanese Foreign Ministry. In 1970 he was transferred to the Lebanese embassy in Morocco and two years later was appointed as a counsellor in Brazil, where he spent six years shuttling between Rio de Janeiro and Brasilia attending to the needs of the large and influential Lebanese community there.

Mr. Hobeika arrived in Amman in 1983 to assume his first ambassadorial post in his diplomatic career after spending five years in his war-torn country as head of the Educational and Cultural Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Beirut.

His arrival in Amman marked his first visit ever to Jordan but it did not take him long to realise "the strikingly common features between the two societies."

In short, he says "I found out that Lebanon's ambassador in Jordan is an ambassador in his own country."

Mr. Hobeika emphasises the similarities between Amman and Beirut, in terms "of intimate social relations and the climate", which help Amman's Lebanese com-



Her Majesty Queen Noor during a cordial visit to Ambassador Hobeika's family.

munity to avoid the otherwise inevitable feeling of alienation.

He and his family will be soon leaving Amman "with warm memories of Jordan and Jordanians", he says. The Lebanese ambassador notes that during his stay here he has been deeply touched by Jordan's "sincere solidarity with the Lebanese people and real affection towards Lebanon, which most know well."

"I often run into Jordanians who recall their days in Lebanon as students or as frequent visitors and who express hope that peace and tranquillity be restored in

Lebanon so that they would go back", he says. "Jordanians really miss Lebanon and the old days of Beirut, the flourishing centre of culture and creativity, which they truly long for", he adds.

Mr. Hobeika talks with pride and affection about Brazil and the role of the Lebanese community in the Latin American countries' social, economic, cultural and political life.

Talking about Brazil and Lebanese expatriates, however, is not simply a matter of recalling good memories which Mr. Hobeika treasures. In fact, he is talking about

the issues which deal directly with his near future plans and responsibilities. Mr. Hobeika is soon leaving Amman for Brazil but this time as an ambassador to his country where he will assume the responsibility of seven consulates spread in the governorates of the biggest country in Latin America.

He cites the presence of 35 deputies of Lebanese origin in the 400-member Brazilian parliament and the fact that a prominent Lebanese, Mr. Paulo Mar'ouf, was one of the strongest candidates for presidency during the country's

last elections as vivid examples of the success and influence of the Lebanese community in Brazil.

But what impresses Mr. Hobeika the most about the Lebanese community in Brazil is that "although they are well-established in Brazil they are strongly attached to their heritage and Lebanese origins."

Furthermore, the Lebanese community in Brazil had not allowed "factional and sectarian differences and conflicts back home to affect their relations and closeness."

Randa Habib's Corner

Night clubs not for children

BECAUSE IT is the summer holidays, and because the children do not have to wake up early to go to school, parents are taking their children wherever they go. Restaurants are full of kids nowadays. Cafes, clubs and cinemas too; and this is normal since children have so little entertainment in our country after all. But to see children, babies even, in the very few nightclubs of Amman is unimaginable.

In one of those nightclubs, the other evening, while a singer was presenting her show, one could see at least five children, on different tables, carried by their parents — who encouraged them to dance. Some customers even cleared the table in front of them while a six-year-old girl climbed on it and started swaying. Her folks clapped their hands looking very proud of their little one.

The other groups had less luck — their babies were crying most of the time, disturbing them in the process and all the other customers too. For a nightclub, the ambience looked more like a kindergarten. In another hotel which had advertised a male singer, the situation was not much different. Most of the tables had children. When I raised the matter with some parents, the answer was either, "our children love to attend the show," or "where shall we leave them?" This is nonsense.

First of all children are certainly not fit to attend shows in smoky and overexcited places. Also parents who can afford to dine at such places can find a babysitter for their children or a relative who can watch them that evening.

In any case, night clubs' managers should not allow the presence of the underage and should have the courage to refuse clients accompanied by children. In many countries of the world, under-eighteens are not allowed into nightclubs. So why do not we have such a system here?



Simple Stove-Niamey, Niger (Earthscan photo)

Who grows the world's food?

From UNFPA

WOMEN HAVE always known who weeds the sorghum, transplants the rice seedlings, picks the beans and tends the chickens. In fact it has been estimated that their labour produces almost half of the world's food. But it has taken a long time for the rest of the world to discover these facts. In Africa, for example, three-quarters of agricultural work is done by women. They are half of the agricultural labour force in Asia. In Latin America and the Middle East, too, though official estimates are low, closer investigation reveals that women are doing a substantial amount of the farming there as well.

In Egypt, for instance, the 1970 census identified only 3.6 per cent of women doing agricultural work. But local investigations revealed that, in the south, half of wives plough and level the land, and between 35 and 70 per cent are involved in planting, tilling and harvesting. In Peru the 1972 census indicated only 2.6 per cent of women working in agriculture. A local survey corrected that figure to 16 per cent. And a carefully worded questionnaire, designed to account for people's tendency to under-report women's work, revealed that smallholding should properly be considered a woman's farming system because it occupied women from 86 per cent of households almost to the exclusion of men.

As with their domestic work, much of women's agricultural work tends to be overlooked because it is unpaid. In Malawi and Botswana, for example, over three quarters of women work unpaid on the land. And there are far more women than men doing unpaid agricultural work in many countries. In Mali and Ghana the ratio is over two to one; in Cameroon it is more than three to one.

Even when unpaid work is taken into account, however, women's agricultural workload still tends to be underestimated. This is largely because so much of it takes place away from the fields and the pastures. One study in Pakistan found that women's "invisible" agricultural activities — like their vegetable garden by the house — took just as much time as the "visible" ones. Another area of activity rarely included is work with livestock — again partly because much of the work involved takes place in or around the house.

It is not only in developing countries that women's farm work is underestimated. Surveys in Turkey and Spain found farmers' wives working up to 70 hours a week out on the farm itself.

Modernisation for men

That women farmers in the dev-

eloping world have been made invisible is only too visible from the statistics for agricultural innovations and projects. Information collected from 46 African countries showed that only 3.4 per cent of trained government workers providing agricultural advice to people in rural areas were women. Other research puts the figure still lower, at just 2.9 per cent. In other parts of the world the situation is the same. In Nepal, for instance, studies show that women provide between 66 and 100 per cent of the labour in many agricultural activities and make 42 per cent of agricultural decisions — choosing which seeds to plant, deciding how much and what kind of fertiliser to apply. But a review of government projects in 1983 discovered that, of all the agricultural advisors trained to help villagers, only one was a woman — and she had been trained in "home economics", not agriculture.

As the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) comments: "Throughout the Decade developing countries revealed rather discouraging information about women's access to agricultural education, training and extension services."

Tools for change

It is not only training and advice about agriculture that has been directed more at men. When new technology is introduced it usually helps men with their traditional tasks of ploughing, irrigation and harvesting, but leaves women to continue their work of weeding, thinning and transplanting, by hand or with primitive knives and hoes. The rain-watered rice grown by women in Gambia, for example — which makes up 84 per cent of the country's entire rice harvest — covers 26 times as much land as the irrigated rice grown by men, but receives only one 26th of government spending on rice projects.

Even when technology is introduced for tasks traditionally done by women, the machines tend to replace women completely rather than easing their work. Oil presses in Nigeria, tortilla-making machines in Mexico, saw-tooth processing machines in Sarawak, are all owned and operated by men. And in Bangladesh rice mills, employing only men, have been introduced, so depriving many local women — who used to husk rice for better-off families — of one of their main sources of income.

FAO sums up the situation: "In all regions the introduction of modern agricultural technology is primarily aimed at male tasks and uses almost exclusively by men."

Costs and benefits of development

Agricultural development has advanced at a different pace and in different ways through the various regions of the world. Two major global trends can be distinguished. But these two trends — towards large scale commercialisation and the growing of cash crops for export — have superimposed themselves on landscapes already eroded and shaped by history. These global trends have seldom benefited men and women equally. But the picture in each major area of the world is slightly different.

Land, loans and the law

The sweeping changes in agriculture in recent years have — with the exception of just a few countries — worsened the situation for the poorest and least powerful of the world's people. It is estimated that over half a billion people living in the rural areas of the developing world have no land.

In many parts of the world it is new laws and competition with big commercial farms that have caused many millions of men to lose their land and, therefore, the ability to benefit directly from the fruits of their labour. But women regularly lose their land rights under some of the oldest laws in history: the laws of marriage and inheritance. Laws giving women the right to own land are in the vast majority of cases, superseded by the laws of marriage and inheritance, which steal those rights back again. So complete is this disinheritance of women, that it has been estimated that they own less than one hundredth of the world's property.

In Peru, Bolivia and Brazil, married women are legally restricted in their ability to administer property without their husband's consent. And it has already been explained how land reform has tended to exclude women. Even when one group of Honduran women formed their own farmer's group and applied — as a group — to the authorities for land, their request was denied simply because they were women.

In Asia almost all women are landless because of inheritance and divorce laws which prevent women gaining access to a man's land. Even where women can inherit — under the customary laws of the Hindu Mitakshara, Parsee and Christian sects in India, for example, or under Sawlaw law in Sri Lanka — they receive smaller shares than male heirs. And in the Philippines laws prevent a woman acquiring land at all without her

husband's consent.

Even in Africa, that one region where women have had traditional right to land on a large scale, the customary laws still tend to discriminate against women. In a number of countries in Africa women's access to land is often more restricted than men's and may be conditioned by a woman's marital status.

Without land, property or a substantial regular income — collateral in banking terms — it is almost impossible for women to get loans. Only five per cent of the money lent by African commercial banks goes into agriculture at all. And almost all of that goes to men. Without help from the banks women are forced to turn to relatives or money lenders, the latter charging exorbitant interest rates — around 50 per cent a year in Ghana, for instance, and up to 240 per cent in Somalia's Nicaragua.

The FAO puts it like this: "In the Third World agricultural productivity cannot be substantially increased, nor can rural poverty be alleviated, unless women's access to key productive resources and services is substantially improved. The consequences of patriarchy for agricultural productivity are very expensive. Developing countries cannot bear their heavy cost."

Famine in Africa

The heaviest of the costs to which FAO is referring is famine. It is now becoming clear that a factor contributing to Africa's acute food shortages is the way women have been systematically excluded from access to land and from control of modern agriculture in that region.

The processes are subtle but are beginning to prove devastating. And the devastation is greatest in Africa because this is the region where women do a greater proportion of agricultural work — between 60 and 80 per cent — than in any other continent.

Even in 1980 — before the current drought — Africa was only 86 per cent self-sufficient in food. In the 1930's the continent was a net exporter of food. But by the 1960's self-sufficiency had dropped to 90 per cent.

Part of the problem is the sheer amount of work African women are expected to do. In Malawi, for example, women do twice as much work as men on the staple maize crop, equal amounts in the cotton fields, plus their domestic chores at home. A survey in Burkina Faso found families lost weight during the rainy season — not because there was no food available, but because their long days in the fields left women too exhausted to



Young women carrying twigs-Bouza, South Niger (Earthscan photo)

cook. And in Zambia another study found that the amount that was harvested depended, not on what the land could yield, but on the amount of work women could fit into the daylight hours.

In Ghana when cocoa prices plummeted and large numbers of men migrated to the city, leaving women to shoulder all the agricultural work alone, many women decided to replace the traditional yam crop with less nutritious cassava because it takes so much less time to cultivate. And it was in Ghana that acute malnutrition — called by its Ghanaian name of kwashiorkor — was first identified, having been brought to doctors' attention by its appearance in huge numbers of small children being fed cassava as a weaning food.

Migration of men often leaves women with too much work to handle alone. In Botswana, tradition forbids women to handle cattle and they are forced to pay neighbours to plough their fields, often finding themselves at the end of a long queue so that their land is not ready when the first of the rains arrive.

Another reason for declining food production in Africa is the introduction of cash crops — to men. In the Ivory Coast a shortage of food staples resulted when the government encouraged men to grow cash crops. Some of the best land — where women had previously been growing food — was claimed by their husbands for the

new cash crop and wives had to spend most of their time working on their husbands' fields instead of growing food. Malawi's groundnut harvest — grown chiefly by women — was down too, and for the same reasons, after a World Bank project encouraged men to expand staple maize production for export.

And the failure of plans for Gambia to become self-sufficient in rice by 1980 has led to an increase of nearly 300 per cent in rice imports between 1966 and 1979. The reason? Because, though Gambian women grow 84 per cent of the country's rice, the agricultural advice and investment was given to men alone.

Factors like these have contributed to a reduction in per capita food production in Africa over the last two decades. As FAO points out: "Despite the well-documented, crucial role that women play in food production in this region, agricultural modernisation efforts have excluded them, leading to negative consequences for food production and the perpetuation of rural poverty."

Passive resistance

Women in Africa have not always submitted lightly to their loss of land and livelihood, however. Some are objecting in the only way they can.

When government pricing policies sent men's maize profits soaring in Zambia and led to more

land being put under maize, women kept working doggedly in their own groundnut fields and refused to turn them over to the more lucrative maize: because they — and not their husbands — kept the money from sales of groundnuts.

In Tanzania, too, when new hybrid maize seeds, plus fertiliser and pesticides, were given to men, their wives — who do most of the work in the fields — neglected the new crop because, while it increased their workload, the profits went only to their husbands. The exact opposite happened in Zimbabwe, however, and yields rose dramatically when the same hybrid maize package was introduced. Why? Because the new seeds were given to women.

Investing in women

It is a tragedy that women are forced into conflicts like these. Because the evidence points to the fact that, given the same kind of help, encouragement and incentives as men, women's agricultural productivity at least equals that of men.

In Africa there is evidence that women can become more productive farmers than men. In Kenya, for instance, where 38 per cent of the farms are run by women, those women manage to harvest the same amount per hectare as men, despite men's greater access to loans, advice, fertilisers, hybrid seeds and insecticide. And

when women were given the same level of help, they were found to be more efficient than men and produced bigger harvests.

They key, says FAO, is to ensure that women can acquire and hang onto independent access to land and loans — independent, that is, of men. All-women co-operative farms and rural credit schemes appear to be the most promising way forward. And these have been tried with some success in countries such as Vietnam, Bangladesh and India. But, laments FAO, "Policy-makers and international experts have persistently resisted the idea of all women's co-operatives" — even in West Africa where such co-operatives are traditional. And country-wide agricultural projects aimed specifically at women have not yet been implemented in any country, forcing FAO to conclude that: "It is virtually impossible to identify any country in which national strategies have generally benefited women's role in agriculture", adding that: "No successes at the national level can be reported at this time."

Yet when women are able to profit directly from their work in the fields, they are not the only ones to benefit. Studies in Burkina Faso and Bangladesh have indicated that, when women do have time or money to spare, they use it to improve the health and well-being of their children — United Nations decade for Women Bulletin.

Alain Prost wins British Grand Prix

SILVERSTONE, England (R) — Alain Prost's world championship dream moved a step closer to reality Sunday in a confusing finish to the British Grand Prix.

There were no doubts about the Frenchman's third success of the season as he sped across the line with his rivals out of sight.

But the chequered flag was waved prematurely and some of the drivers he beat were unsure of their places behind him.

Race officials admitted a human error after the flag dropped one lap too soon — only 65 instead of the scheduled 66 laps were completed.

Prost, just two points behind championship leader Michele Alboreto of Italy after Sunday's performance, took his McLaren round for another lap just in case there were any further misunderstandings.

He would have won anyway, having lapped the rest of the cars still running, in his chase for the world crown he has missed so narrowly in the last two seasons.

Only one man appeared capable of halting Prost's progress to Grand Prix win number 19.

That was Brazilian Ayrton Senna, another challenger in the

most open Formula One title chase for years.

Senna led from the first corner and held off Prost with another demonstration of faultless driving until seven laps from the end. Suddenly his Lotus spluttered to a halt and Prost was away on his own.

In a final gesture before his car expired, Senna again overtook Prost who had inherited second place at the end of the 15th lap.

That was when the fine challenge of Finland's Keke Rosberg ended, smoke billowing from the back of his Williams. Much had been expected of Rosberg, who produced the fastest-ever Grand Prix laps in practice.

Prost never doubted he would win. "I always knew I could beat Senna by turning up the boost. It was a waiting game," he said.

Title-holder Niki Lauda of Austria was also forced to retire his McLaren while in third place, leaving Alboreto a much-relieved second place finisher.

Tunisia scores 2-0 win over Nigeria

TUNIS (R) — Two goals from striker Bassam Jeridi gave Tunisia a 2-0 win over Nigeria and carried them through to the fourth round of the World Soccer Cup African qualifying tournament Saturday.

Victory ensured Tunisia of a 2-1 aggregate victory following their 1-0 defeat in Lagos two weeks ago.

Tunisia were in fine form in front of a 50,000 crowd at the Al Menzah stadium and took the lead after seven minutes, Jeridi showing

home after a corner had been laid into his path outside the penalty area.

Tunisia pressed home their advantage and never allowed Nigeria to settle and it was no surprise when Jeridi headed his second after 31 minutes from a finely-judged free kick.

In the second half, Tunisia nearly added to their lead when Abdelhamid Hergal hit the woodwork from a cross by Abdelkader Rakbaoui.

Hinault wins Tour de France

PARIS (R) — Bernard Hinault scored his fifth victory in the Tour de France cycling classic Sunday to equal the records of fellow Frenchman Jacques Anquetil and Belgian Eddy Merckx.

Hinault clinched his win in the 4,000-kilometre race when he finished among the pack on Sunday's 22nd and final stage which brought the tour to the Champs-Elysees in the heart of Paris.

Belgium's Rudy Matthijs snatched the last stage victory, outstripping Ireland's Sean Kelly as the field swept through their sixth and final lap on the showpiece Paris street.

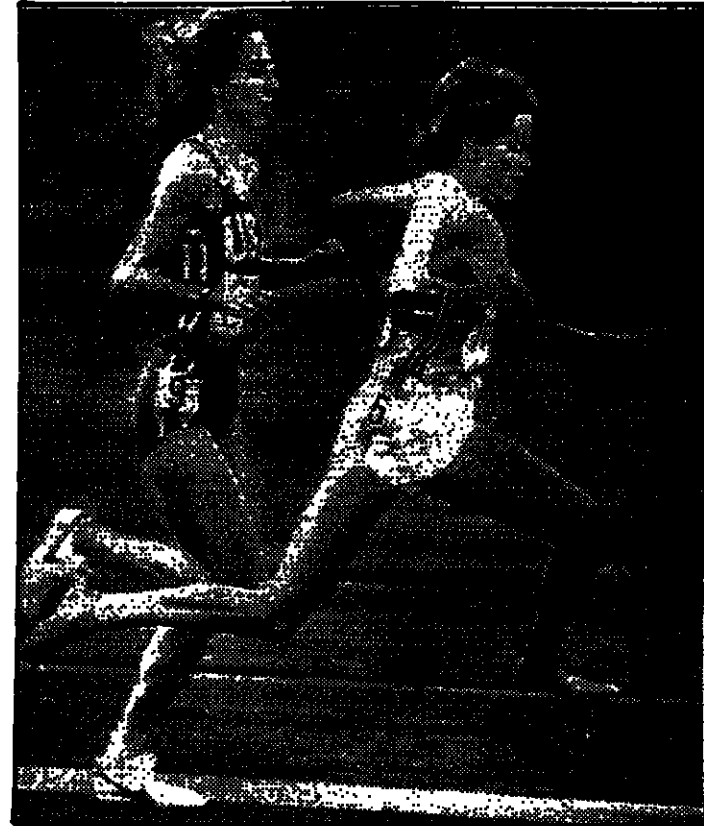
Hinault, who missed the tour because of injury in 1983 and was

beaten into second place by compatriot Laurent Fignon last year, dominated the 1985 tour in the absence of Fignon, himself sidelined by injury this time.

American Greg Lemond, Hinault's team-mate and 'crown prince', took second place overall — one better than in 1984 — as English-speaking riders filled second to fifth slots for the second year in a row. He was around two minutes slower than Hinault.

Stephen Roche was third, ahead of fellow Irishman Kelly, with Australia's Phil Anderson fifth.

Hinault completed the tour in 113 hours 24 minutes 23 seconds to win by one minute 42 seconds overall from Lemond.



Zola Budd passes Mary Decker Slaney and moves inside (left) just before the collision that put Slaney down and out of the 3,000 metres run at the Los Angeles Olympic Games last August.

Slaney, Budd end year-long controversy

LONDON (AP) — Mary Decker Slaney and Zola Budd shook hands, raced together again and finally buried their differences at London's Crystal Palace stadium Saturday night.

"This does not prove anything. It just proves I was in good shape tonight," 26-year-old Slaney told reporters after comfortably beating Budd over 3,000 metres in their first meeting since colliding at the Los Angeles Olympics.

The race, part of an IAAF-Mobil Grand Prix track meet, had been built up as an Olympic rematch between the blonde American and the timid, bespectacled Budd, who tangled dramatically on the track in the Los Angeles coliseum last August.

But despite the big build-up, the stands here were only half full as

Slaney won easily to set a world best time this year and Budd finished fourth 70 metres behind.

"All the pressure in this race was from the controversy, the interviews and the pictures," Slaney told a packed news conference.

"I was happy with the race. I wanted to run a little bit faster, but given the weather conditions I'm happy with it. I think with about two laps to go I started to push the pace just a little bit."

Slaney made only one reference to last year's Olympics, when she crashed on to the trackside clutching her leg in pain after tangling with Budd.

"I'm happy she wasn't in front of me," said the American, half-jokingly.

Until the last two laps, Budd kept herself tucked in at Slaney's

shoulders but could never move into higher gear.

Instead, the American widened her lead and surged home to win in 8:32.91, the fastest time in the world this year by almost eight seconds.

Slaney said she did not think back to the Olympics when she knew that Budd was so close to her.

"I was happy someone was there at my right shoulder, no matter who it was," she said.

On her pre-race handshake with the South African-born Budd, as the two athletes warmed up, Slaney commented:

"I wanted to wish her luck because of all the controversy surrounding the thing."

Budd said she was glad the race was finally over. "And I'm glad Mary ran so well," she said.

Asked if there was any stage at which she thought she might win, Budd replied:

"No, not really, the last two laps were the worst. I wanted to run faster — I just wasn't there."

Budd said there were no hard feelings any longer between the two runners.

"I think all that has happened between us is in the past and now I'm looking towards the future,"

she said. "I think it has taken a lot of pressure off both of us."

Slaney said it was possible they would meet again in Edinburgh on Tuesday night when Budd already is entered for the 800 metres.

"I should make up my mind in the next couple of days," she said.

Karpov leads with 4 points

AMSTERDAM (R) — World champion Anatoly Karpov Saturday night led with four points in an international chess tournament in Amsterdam after two previously adjourned matches ended in draws.

Karpov was on white as he finished a third-round game against Slobodan Martinovic of Yugoslavia and on black to complete a fifth-round match against Dutchman Jan Timman.

Tony Miles of Britain is in second place with three wins, followed by compatriot John Nunn and Timman in joint third place with 2.5 points.

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**1- THE AVENGER
2- BLOODY ARMS**
(Colour)
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Police opens fraud probe into British bank collapse

LONDON (R) — British police opened a fraud inquiry last week into a bank collapse which has thrust the Bank of England into an embarrassing public row with the government and provoked fears for London's standing as a financial centre.

The police investigation into the affairs of Johnson Matthey Bankers (JMB) was announced last week after the discovery of what Finance Minister Nigel Lawson called "serious and unexplained gaps" in the bank's records.

Opposition politicians are accusing the Bank of England, Britain's central bank, and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's government of letting themselves be duped out of millions of pounds in a scandal revealing bungling and incompetence.

Mr. Lawson, who has been severely critical of the Bank of England, called the affair "a shambles and worse."

It has already led to a shake-up in banking laws to strengthen the hand of the regulatory authorities — chiefly the Bank of England — in monitoring the health of banks.

JMB, a subsidiary of Johnson Matthey Plc, one of the five London gold market members which set the price of gold each day, managed to lose £245 million (\$343 million) on bad loans before anyone realised something was wrong.

When it collapsed last September, the Bank of England rescued the bank, buying it for a nominal £1 and putting in £50 million (\$70 million) without formally consulting the government.

In November the Bank of England deposited another £100 million (\$140 million) at JMB without telling the government it had done so.

Mr. Lawson addressed parliament on the affair on Dec. 17 unaware of the deposit. He found out two days later.

The bank argued that the failure of JMB would have precipitated the collapse of the London gold market along with such prestige as London retained as a banking centre. Some independent experts doubt that analysis.

A furious Lawson later assailed the Bank of England for failing to spot the impending disaster.

Criticism was inevitably directed at Mr. Robin Leigh-Pemberton, who moved from the chairmanship of the National Westminster Bank to take over as governor of the Bank of England two years ago as Mrs. Thatcher's personal choice.

Mr. Leigh-Pemberton, 56, was a controversial selection. The Financial Times, Bible of Britain's business world, attacked his lack of international experience and standing.

But while acknowledging blunders, both the bank and the government had until late last week dismissed allegations by Labour parliamentarians of fraud. Three weeks ago the definitive Bank of England report on the case de-

clared: "No evidence of fraud by the directors or staff of JMB has been discovered."

Mr. Lawson told parliament that although strictly speaking no prima facie evidence of fraud had been uncovered the City of London fraud squad had been asked to find out whether any criminal offences had been committed.

Several fellow Conservatives voiced deep concern for the image of the City of London, the financial district, with the JMB affair coming soon after a series of scandals involving members of Lloyd's.

One Conservative, Mr. John Stokes, warned Mr. Lawson: "The honesty and integrity of the City of London is now at stake. We look to you to uphold it."

Labour legislators, using the immunity from libel laws conferred by parliamentary privilege, made detailed allegations of fraud by two named businessmen.

OPEC will not cut prices, Oteiba says

ABU DHABI (R) — OPEC ministers meeting in Geneva Monday will not resort to price cuts to shore-up demand for their oil, the head of the organisation's market monitoring committee predicted Sunday.

United Arab Emirates (UAE) Oil Minister Mana Said Al Oteiba told the semi-official UAE daily newspaper Al Itihad after arriving in Geneva that the ideal solution to the current oil market slump was lower production.

"If the choice is between lowering prices or decreasing production naturally we will adopt the second option," he said.

"We will lower (the current OPEC output ceiling of 16 million barrels a day) to whatever level the market needs to protect official prices," he said.

Industry sources estimate Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)'s current production at little more than 14 million barrels per day (b/d).

But analysts say cutting the official ceiling to around that level may not be easy because of demands for higher production from Saudi Arabia and Iraq.

OPEC ministers met two weeks ago in Vienna but failed to agree on a strategy to confront falling spot market prices.

Non-OPEC members Mexico and Egypt recently cut prices by an average of \$1.50 a barrel, putting pressure on OPEC to do likewise.

Saudi stress discipline

Saudi Arabia believes the most important topic at Monday's meeting will be how to maintain discipline among OPEC member states, a Japanese foreign ministry spokesman reported Saturday.

The spokesman, Mr. Takeshi Kagame, was briefing reporters after a meeting lasting nearly three hours here between Japanese Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe and Saudi Foreign Minister Saud Al Faisal.

He reported Prince Saud as having told Mr. Abe the discipline question was the most important topic facing the meeting of oil ministers.

Two other major topics would be the spot oil market and barter deals, Mr. Kagame reported.

He said the Saudi minister had spoken of sacrifices his country had made in supporting prices and cutting production in a glutted market.

Saudi Arabia was prepared to make further sacrifices but there was also a limit to what the kingdom would do, Prince Saud was reported as having said.

He was also reported as having said Saudi Arabia did not want another oil crisis in the 1990s.

Mr. Kagame reported him as telling Mr. Abe that stability in the oil market was not only important for the oil industry, but for the world economy as a whole.

Mr. Abe was quoted as having expressed Japan's gratitude for Saudi efforts to maintain market stability and appreciation for the sacrifices made by the kingdom.

Meanwhile, Iraqi Oil Minister Jassem Ahmad Taqi said Sunday Iraq's demand for an increase in its current OPEC oil output quota of 1.2 million b/d be discussed at the OPEC meeting.

Mr. Taqi told the official Iraqi News Agency (INA) before leaving for Geneva Iraq had raised the demand at a meeting in Vienna earlier this month.

Iraq, which did not take a quota cut at last October's OPEC meeting when overall output was lowered to 16 million b/d from 17.5 million, plans to expand its oil exports.

Mr. Taqi said the planned increase in capacity of its pipeline across Turkey and a link to a Saudi Arabian pipeline, expected to be completed later this year, meant the time was ripe for an increase in its quota.

Iraq now exports about one million b/d, mainly through Turkey to the Mediterranean coast, almost two-thirds below the level before its Gulf outlets were closed shortly after the war with Iran started in September 1980.

Italian lira crisis forces change in exchange rates

BASLE, Switzerland (R) — European Community (EC) ministers and central bank governors agreed Saturday night to a major realignment of their foreign exchange rates following the sudden weakness of the Italian lira last week.

In a statement issued after a nearly eight-hour meeting, the Community's monetary affairs committee said the lira would be devalued by six per cent, effective in time for the opening of foreign exchange markets on Monday.

The seven other currencies in the European Monetary System (EMS) would be revalued by two per cent, the statement said.

A senior monetary source said earlier that the agreement at Saturday's meeting meant that a tentatively planned conference of Community finance ministers Monday would not now be needed.

Mr. Hans Tietmeyer, a top West German finance ministry official and head of the monetary committee, told an impromptu news conference at the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) that the decision took account not just of the extraordinary weakness of the lira Friday but of the growing Italian trade deficit.

Mr. Tietmeyer, finance state secretary in Bonn, said the Italian government had requested the EMS realignment. He also said the Italian government had informed the monetary committee of measures it had taken Saturday.

He did not go into details of the Italian government's economic package, but said the monetary committee would observe its implementation.

Mr. Tietmeyer said the decisions had been taken through telephone contacts by the ministers and central bank governors on the basis of a proposal made by the monetary committee.

He added: "The quick decision demonstrates the efficient decision-making within the EMS. In my view the decision fully corresponds to the present and foreseeable evolutions of the economic fundamentals and developments in Europe."

European Commission officials in Brussels said that although the lira's official central rate within the EMS was cut by six per cent, the devaluation effectively reduces its value against each of the other currencies within the system by 7.8 per cent.

The difference results from the fact that the EMS basket includes the lira itself, and the devaluation must be adjusted to reflect its weight within the basket.

All the currencies go up by 8.5

percent against the lira, according to the effective calculation, they added.

Mr. Tietmeyer said the adjustments within the EMS would not involve any changes to the Community's so-called "green currencies" used for calculating farm prices within the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

The Italian government, relying to defend the lira Saturday, approved measures aimed at raising nearly \$3 billion to set against its huge public spending deficit this year.

Prime Minister Bettino Craxi also demanded a detailed explanation of events which led to the temporary suspension Friday by the treasury and the Bank of Italy of foreign exchange dealing after the lira slumped against the dollar.

The halt came after an order from the state oil company ENI to buy \$125 million against the lira could not be met, sending the Italian currency into free fall at the Milan fixing session.

The dollar rate was eventually set at 2,200 lire, 19 per cent over the level of 24 hours before.

As a result, the lira also fell against other currencies, hitting its "floor" in the EMS against the mark, the lowest rate allowed before central bank action becomes mandatory.

Trading in the lira worldwide then ground to a halt.

Weekly Financial Report

By Fouad N. Batschon

AMMAN — On Monday the U.S. dollar continued to fall in response to the announcement that U.S. retail sales declined 0.8 per cent last month, the sharpest drop since July 1984. Economists and investment managers believed the Federal Reserve (Fed) will drive down interest rates further in an effort to rejuvenate the slow U.S. economy. The Fed's policy making arm, the Federal Open Market Committee, voted 11 to one, at its May 21 meeting to leave U.S. monetary policy unchanged.

In reaction to the dollar's weakness, gold rose \$4.10 an ounce to close in New York at \$318.10.

On Tuesday, the dollar continued its decline, partly reflecting concern among traders over Mr. Reagan's health. U.S. Treasury Secretary James Baker said the Reagan administration was not displeased by the dollar's recent declines.

Traders felt that U.S. interest rates are low enough in view of recent rises in money supply. But the fact that Mr. Paul Volcker, chairman of the Fed, said that there was no need to cut the U.S. discount rate influenced traders to buy the dollar.

On Wednesday, the U.S. dollar firmed for the first time since it began to fall on July 5. But the dollar did ease slightly from its highs of the day after Mr. Paul Volcker indicated the Fed was easing credit conditions by raising money supply targets.

His remarks supported the speculation that the Fed will not cut the discount rate in the near future. Many traders believe the easier credit conditions will eventually stimulate the U.S. economy and lead to a rebound of the U.S. dollar.

On Thursday, most U.S. interest rates fell, which made the dollar continue its drop. Also

the dollar dropped further in reaction to a rise in gold prices which closed in New York at \$323.30 an ounce while silver also rose to close at \$6.235 an ounce.

On Friday, the U.S. dollar rebounded even though the Commerce Department revised downward its estimate of second-quarter U.S. economic growth. The U.S. economy grew at a 1.7 per cent annual pace in the second-quarter, making smaller than expected rebound from the 0.3 per cent growth rate in the first period.

Traders believed the dollar did not react to the decrease in the Gross National Product (GNP) figure because the dollar had fallen so low and so fast in the past two weeks that correction was inevitable.

Sharply higher U.S. interest rates also helped the dollar to strengthen.

But with the U.S. economy still sluggish, the dollar could not breach 2.90 marks. Thursday's sharp roll, which saw the dollar fall by more than four pence on the German marks in New York was nothing more than a technical correction to the recent two-week slide.

Also on Friday the Milan currency market suspended lira dealings following the Milan record fixing of 2,200 lira to the dollar which made imminent devaluation in the lira.

Despite the uncertainty about the American economy, the dollar recovered slightly in this morning trading and neared its opening levels of 2.88/7500 German marks on renewed short-covering before the week-end.

The dollar closed in New York at 289/20 marks; 139/25/85 sterling; 8.71/75/00 French francs; 237/15/35 Swiss francs and 238/40/50 Japanese yen (Gold closed at \$317.85-\$318.35 and silver at \$6.13-\$6.15 an ounce).

EC ministers to meet today to prepare for reform talks

BRUSSELS (R) — European Community (EC) foreign ministers meet here Monday to prepare for a conference on Community reform, an issue that deeply split their leaders at a summit in Milan last month.

Diplomats said the ministers would be asked to approve plans by the group's current Luxembourg presidency to call for a first meeting in September on proposed changes in Community treaties as a step towards wider European union.

The idea of such a conference split the Milan summit on June 28-29, with Britain, Denmark and Greece voting against.

Diplomats said it was a clear signal that the trio were likely to veto changes that might water down their governments' right to block decisions affecting vital national interests.

Luxembourg, which took over the rotating presidency from Italy on July 1, has proposed that the ministers take immediate action to ease the Community's notoriously cumbersome decision-making procedures.

The diplomats said Luxembourg feared that the drive for greater efficiency could become caught up in protracted and difficult talks over the Community's future, due to be taken up at a summit in December but unlikely to be completed then.

Luxembourg wants stop-gap measures now to prevent virtual paralysis when the group is enlarged into a Community of 12 with the accession of Spain and Portugal on Jan. 1, the diplomats added.

The diplomats said that although the summit had voted for the special conference a formal second vote might be taken.

They said Britain had told its partners that it was now ready to take part in such a meeting despite regarding it as a waste of time.

The conference will consider proposals to:

- Change procedures allowing nations to veto decisions that could affect vital national interests.
- Amend treaty provisions requiring unanimity on agreements to remove legal barriers to trade and other exchanges within the Community.
- Expand the treaty to cover non-economic matters such as internal security, health and culture, and give greater powers to the European Commission and the European Parliament.
- Sign a new treaty for foreign and international security policy cooperation and set up a special secretariat for this purpose alongside the European Commission.

UPI seeks to end union deal

WASHINGTON (R) — United Press International (UPI) Saturday filed an application in bankruptcy court to terminate its union contract, saying it must get wage and benefit cuts to help it find a buyer.

The 78-year-old news agency, under bankruptcy code protection to shield it from its creditors since April 28, took the issue to court after failing to win the concessions in negotiations with the Wire Service Guild.

The news agency in its court application, said it expected revenues of between \$93 and \$95 million this year, but without union concessions it would make a slim profit of between \$500,000 and \$1.8 million.

The concessions, which it is seeking with the approval of the bankruptcy court, would add a further \$1.5 million to profits, UPI said. They include a scaling back of salary raises under the guild contract and cuts in medical benefits.

UPI spokesman Mr. Dave Wickenden said: "We expect the application to be heard in about 14 days." UPI management have said they are not trying to destroy the union but are merely seeking to impose cuts they feel are necessary.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, JULY 22, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You will need today and tonight to be more aware of what is going on about you for you are apt to be so wrapped up in a plan of action, you require extra alertness for other interests.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Be sure to keep promises made in business and you get fine results. Important you agree with ideas of your mate also.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Be alert to exactly what it is that others are saying or you could misinterpret their true meaning and get into trouble.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Make sure that you get duties handled and don't run off on any tangents. Avoid taking risks while out driving.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Steer clear of that friend who is in a bad humor otherwise you soon lose your joie de vivre. Think constructively.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) You may feel that you are too tied down with family obligations, but handle them well just the same and all eases up.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Use wisdom in handling transportation matters today. Don't take up any moot points in correspondence.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You feel you do not have enough wherewithal to keep out of the red, but by careful planning and analysis, you do all right.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You feel stymied in gaining your personal wishes today, so take it easy and await the morrow. Don't fuss and fume.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You feel depressed and should seek the company of cheerful individuals who can help brighten your spirit.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) A new friend desires something you own and could give you a rough time, but don't give in. Be with cheerful persons.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Be sure to hold your temper in the outside world otherwise you could get into serious trouble. Follow all rules.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You want badly to get into new projects and interests, but first you have to keep any promises you have made.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will be able to carry through with any tasks once started until they are completed. Teach early not to get into anything until sure it is really worthwhile doing, and the results obtainable. Sports are important here.

THE Daily Crossword

by Peter G. Snow

ACROSS

- Crazes
- Ravell or macaroni
- Concocted
- Where Provo is
- Shoebinding part
- Where Akron is
- Democratic area
- Phone
- Type of piano
- Atom group: abbr.
- Misfortunes
- Tennis unit
- Where Kat. mendo is
- Required a nail hole
- Nails of a sort
- Abhors
- Slits and White rivers
- Court
- Comic Johnson
- Wheels
- Legates
- Ultimate degree
- Warning signal
- Billards shot
- Where some liner goes
- Reforts
- Trotted
- Negative prefix
- Impressed greatly
- Lubricate
- Hash mark
- Carpet type
- Not conventional
- Garden item
- Sample
- Beer or Berra
- Corrodes
- Diaphanous
- Machine

DOWN

- Ado
- Above
- Scholar of art
- Leg part
- Pale shade
- Past
- Urban area
- Wye, range
- Olympics contestants
- Gregarious
- Least deep
- Plow
- Collateral systems
- Writing places
- Chorus voice
- Dance step
- Also Laid role
- Festive event
- In any event
- So-so grade
- Entry
- Cleaver
- Tender spots
- Russ. rev. - itionary
- Gangsters' den
- Possesses
- Drink glowly
- Calendar page
- Dens
- Shore
- US Davis Cup captain
- Stop, horse!
- Misplace
- Rogers et al.
- Hero
- Stick
- Ramp sign
- Hiway

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

MAIL, APRIT, BATH, EVID, BOONE, IRON, MINNESOTA, VIKING, ODE, BONE, CLEAS, BIRA, PIANO

STRAID, GILL, REIT, ALLION, ALAS, DILLY, SANDWICH, CHARISER, TINE, NAVE, OLIVE, ANY, ADIE, SUEDE, STUB, BED, SIAPION, ARCA, AIRF, SYLLOUS, CARDINAL, PIOT, NATIVE, NICE, AMES, GODOY, KILIE

43 Drink glowly
44 Calendar page
46 Dens
48 Plow
50 the Shore
52 US Davis Cup captain
53 Stop, horse!
55 Misplace
57 Rogers et al.
58 Hero
59 Stick
60 Ramp sign
61 Hiway

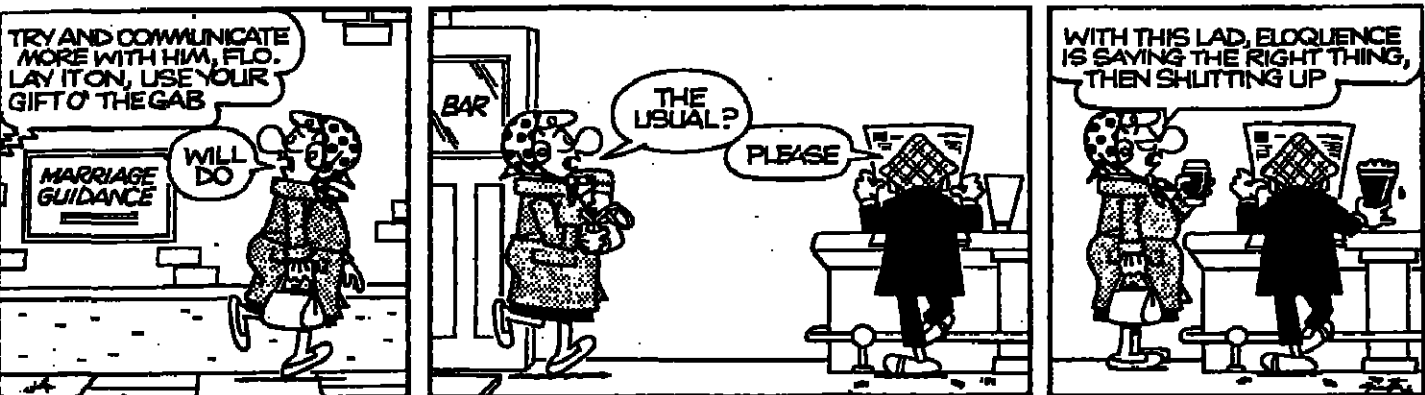
Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF



JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

JABON

OVERP

EVIDID

THINEZ

WHAT THE HULA DANCER DID TO THE GUYS IN THE AUDIENCE.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: "O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O" 'EM

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: PARKA TOXIC DROPSY ACCORD

Answer: What a person who spends every afternoon watching TV undoubtedly is — A "SOAP" ADDICT

South African forces crackdown on townships

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South African security forces set up roadblocks around black townships Sunday and imposed other measures under new emergency powers that came into effect at midnight Saturday, police said.

Police headquarters in Pretoria declined to say what areas were affected or what measures had been taken.

But before dawn in KwaThema, east of Johannesburg, a Reuters correspondent saw troops and police searching residents at roadblocks as they entered or left the township. Soldiers carrying semi-automatic rifles stood guard along a main street.

President P.W. Botha Saturday announced a state of emergency in riot-torn areas around Johannesburg and in the eastern Cape. Some 500 people have been killed in the unrest over the past 18 months.

The state of emergency, the first

since 1960, allows the government to impose curfews, censor the press and detain people indefinitely. It bars the media from publishing details of those held.

South African Council of Churches General Secretary Beyers Naude said the anger and unrest would increase, adding: "The awful bloodbath, long prophesied, is upon us."

On Saturday a black woman suspected of being a police informer was stoned to death and her body set alight by a crowd at a funeral of riot victims in Duduza township near Johannesburg, police said.

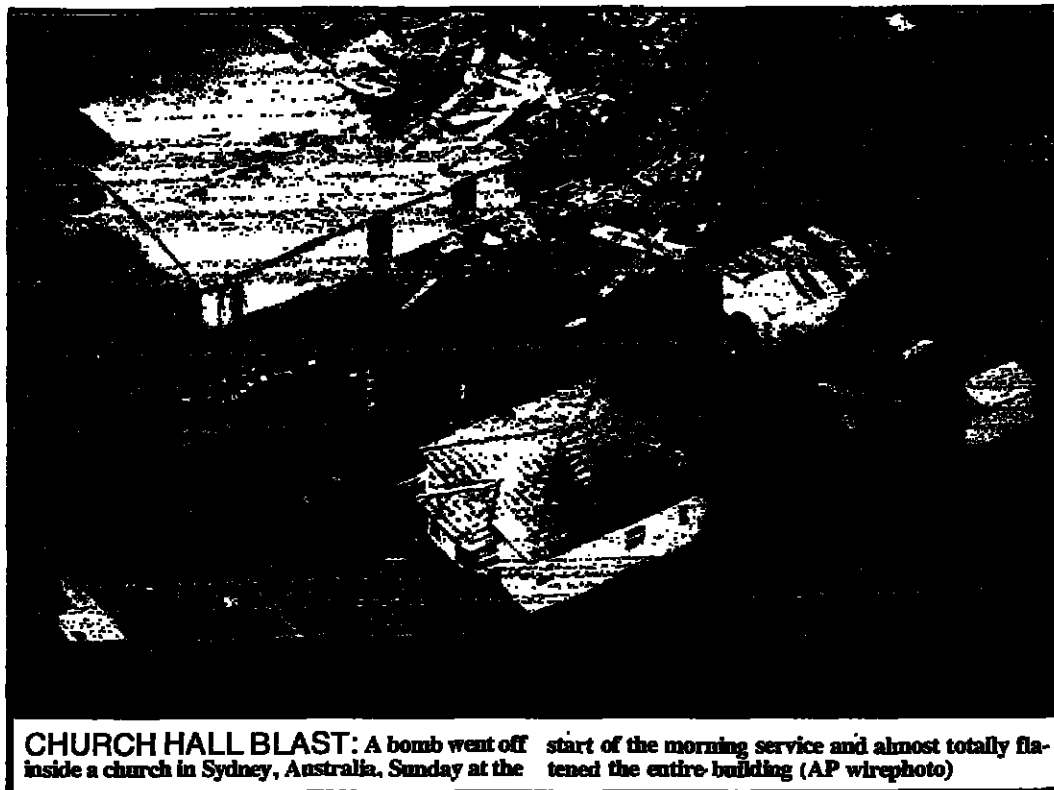
Anti-government rioting has spread in recent days to the huge

Soweto township near Johannesburg, centre of unrest in 1976 in which 575 people were killed.

Opposition Progressive Federal Party leader Frederik Van Zyl Slabbert said it was clear the government had neither the talent nor the plans to cope with the current situation.

The South African Bar Council expressed regret that the government had suspended citizens' rights. The Association of Chambers of Commerce (Assocom) said "real negotiations ... are the key to a return to an orderly South Africa and to stability in our townships".

At a funeral for four murdered community leaders in the eastern Cape town of Cradock, world alliance of reformed churches President Allan Boesak called for black consumer boycotts of white shops in Johannesburg.



CHURCH HALL BLAST: A bomb went off inside a church in Sydney, Australia, Sunday at the start of the morning service and almost totally flattened the entire building (AP wirephoto)

Li due in Washington on first U.S. visit

WASHINGTON (R) — China's President Li Xiannian arrives in Washington Monday at the head of a powerful delegation for 10 days of talks with President Reagan and senior U.S. officials.

Mr. Reagan, who left hospital Saturday one week after a successful cancer operation, will greet Mr. Li on Tuesday at the White House and host a dinner for him that night.

Mr. Li's talks with officials are likely to highlight a series of bilateral problems. But U.S. officials say these are unlikely to be allowed to mar relations that have improved consistently over the last few years.

"The days when the Chinese raised every problem to the level of a litmus test of our relations have gone," one official said.

Chief among the problems is a nuclear cooperation accord that would open the way for U.S. firms to compete for billions of dollars worth of business in China's nuclear power programme, currently dominated by Western Europe.

The accord, initiated by President Reagan on a visit to Peking 14 months ago, is still awaiting congressional approval and recent hopes that the path would be cleared for its final signature by Mr. Li during his visit are fading.

The officials said the State Department was happy with Chinese assurances that any U.S. nuclear technology sold to China would stay there and not be passed on to third countries.

But they said that many people in Congress and at the Defense Department were still dubious following Chinese help to Pakistan in its nuclear programme.

India charges that this has given Pakistan the ability to make a nuclear bomb, a fear shared by many officials in Washington despite Pakistani denials.

"China has undergone many changes since Peking helped Pak-

istan," one official said. "It's now a question of whether you take the Chinese at their word. In my view you can. The Chinese do not want to get mixed up in nuclear proliferation. They don't do unreasonable things."

Congress is also the source of the other major problem likely to come up during Mr. Li's visit.

Resolutions have been proposed in Congress aimed at cutting off U.S. money for the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) as long as it supports programmes in countries practising abortion as a way of family planning.

Mr. Li, on his departure for Canada at the start of his North American trip, denounced the resolutions as interference in China's internal affairs.

Officials in Washington say they are likely to come up for debate while Mr. Li is in the United States. "We can only hope they arrive at language that isn't too offensive to Peking."

Mr. Li's U.S. visit comes shortly after a high-level Chinese delegation visited Moscow amid strong signs of a beginning of a Sino-Soviet rapprochement.

The Communist neighbours, estranged for more than two decades, signed a trade agreement but U.S. officials say Peking's relations with Washington are still far more relaxed than those with the Soviet Union.

"It struck us just how coolly the Russians treated them," an official said. "It was significant they didn't see either (new Soviet leader Mikhail) Gorbachev or (new Soviet President Andrei) Gromyko."

Mr. Li's delegation is much more high-powered than that which visited Moscow and includes one of Peking's fastest-rising stars, Li Peng, head of both education and energy.

Separatists kill Sri Lankan soldier

COLOMBO (R) — Separatist guerrillas shot dead a soldier and wounded three others during a security forces' search operation in Sri Lanka's northern province, official sources said Sunday.

They could not give details. But residents in the northern capital Jaffna told Reuters by telephone that soldiers on a street patrol had been shot at near a guerrilla hideout at Point Pedro Saturday night.

Australian police search for church hall bomber

SYDNEY (R) — A bomb destroyed a church hall during a service of the Jehovah's Witnesses sect in Sydney Sunday, killing one man and injuring 43 people including a three-month-old baby, police said.

No one has yet claimed responsibility for the blast, which shattered the brick and wood building in the suburb of Liverpool at 10 a.m., police homicide and bomb squads said.

The bomb went off beneath a rostrum where a man was giving a sermon, hurling him out of the building, police said.

The dead man had been sitting directly in front of the rostrum. His wife was severely injured but their three children were not seriously hurt, rescuers said.

Investigators said they believed the bomb was equivalent to one kilogramme of gelignite.

Church spokesmen would not comment on a motive for the bombing. But churchgoers at the scene said there had been a fire-bomb attack on the church and break-ins in which blood was smeared on curtains.

Police said the church was broken into early Sunday. The congregation noticed a broken window, but nothing else was amiss

40 Soviet subs take part in exercises

LONDON (AP) — Soviet submarines have mounted a sizeable simulated attack on five warships of the Baltic Fleet in the North Sea, NATO reported as the Western alliance continued monitoring a big Soviet naval exercise.

"After a protracted buildup and deployment phase, the... shooting war is now well under way," the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's (NATO) Eastern Atlantic Surveillance Coordination Centre at Northwood in North West London reported.

In a statement, the centre said coloured flares spotted near the warships indicated they had been fired at by submarines forming a barrier.

The Northwood centre said Friday that the exercise in the North Atlantic, Norwegian and North Seas is the largest ever mounted by the Soviets and involves vessels from three of Moscow's four fleets — the Northern, the Baltic and the Black Sea.

Saturday's NATO statement said at least 38 warships, 25 naval auxiliaries and probably about 40 submarines were taking part.

The 43,000-ton aircraft carrier Kiev, the largest ship in the Northern Fleet, escorted by the battle cruiser Kirov and two destroyers, Ognevoy and Soobraznyy, early Saturday sailed into a no-go zone 400 kilometres north west of the Lofoten Islands off Norway, the statement said.

The vessels were apparently preparing four surface-to-air missile firings in the near future, the statement said.

Armed men rob Citibank in Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — Seven men armed with pistols stole 200,000 Lebanese pounds (\$13,000) from a branch of the U.S. Citibank in west Beirut, security sources said. They said it was the first bank hold-up since a Syrian-backed security plan took effect in the mainly-Muslim sector of the capital last Tuesday in a bid to end lawlessness and militia rule in west Beirut. Banks have been among the victims of a spate of armed robberies in west Beirut over the past few months.

Teacher convicted of promoting hatred

RED DEER, Alberta (R) — A Canadian high school history teacher has been convicted of promoting hatred of Jews in the classroom and fined 5,000 Canadian dollars (\$3,650). Jim Keegstra, 51, who lost his teaching job and the post of mayor of Eckville, Alberta, because of the case, said he would appeal. He told reporters after the verdict: "A black cloud of fear and terror has descended over Canada. This is a defeat for all Canadians."

The decision came after a 70-day trial that began in April and after 30 hours of deliberation over four days by the jury. Justice John MacKenzie ordered that Keegstra's research library be confiscated. More than 150 books, pamphlets and articles were seized during the investigation. Keegstra testified that he used the material to form his conviction that a Jewish conspiracy planned to rule the world and that Jews had caused some historic calamities.

Indian guru urges birth control

RAJNEESH PURAM, Oregon (R) — An Indian guru whose sprawling commune has spawned anger in central Oregon said the answer to world poverty was to reduce the population of the world by three-quarters. Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh, 51, was asked at his first U.S. news conference why he was not doing anything to help famine victims in countries like Ethiopia. He replied: "There is suffering here (in Ethiopia) because of your priests and politicians. All world religions preach the same thing: That people should continue to produce more and more people." He said the world needed "one-fourth of its population and the only way is to have for 20 years absolute birth control... and abortion should not only be legal, but it should be rewarded."

Largest entity in space sighted

TUCSON, Arizona (AP) — Scientists at Kitt Peak National Observatory say they have spotted a supercluster of galaxies that is believed to be the largest known entity in space. The cluster of galaxies is 1 billion light-years long, said Jack O. Burns, a University of New Mexico astronomer. A light-year is almost six trillion miles. Scientists believe that formation of such a cluster would require more gravitational force than has previously been attributed to all the galaxies and stars known to humans, Burns said last week. "The universe must be dominated by some form of dark or unseen matter," he said. That matter, he added, could be made of the exotic particles predicted recently by high-energy physicists.

Treasure hunter hits jackpot

MIAMI (R) — After 20 years of scouring the ocean floor for all that glitters, treasure hunter Mel Fisher has said he has hit a \$200 million jackpot of sunken riches from the wreck of a Spanish galleon near Key West, Florida.

"It's mind-boggling. We've been following the treasure trail for some time, and now we've come to a gigantic pile of gold, silver and jewels at the end of the rainbow," the 62-year-old chicken farmer turned treasure hunter told Reuters.

Fisher, speaking by phone from his Key West headquarters, said his rubber-suited divers Saturday had located about half the estimated \$400 million treasure trove of Nuestra Señora de Atocha, a Spanish ship that sank in a hurricane in 1622 off the southern tip of Florida.

Divers on the wreck site — 40 miles west of Key West — reported Saturday they had uncovered about 1,000 34 kilogramme silver bars forming a stack that measures 20 metres long, 10 yards wide and two yards tall, Fisher said.

That find was followed by the discovery of a large chunk of the Atocha's hull and some 100,000 silver coins — more than one-third of the amount listed on the treasure-ship's cargo manifest. Fisher put the total value of the day's haul at more than \$200 million.

Undersea riches are nothing new to Fisher, who started his quest for the Atocha and her sister ship La Margarita nearly twenty years ago.

In 1971, he found scattered parts of the twin wrecks and began lifting treasure from the sugar-

white sands of the ocean floor. Before Saturday's discovery, he had already pulled up \$70 million in silver and jewels from La Margarita.

A three million dollars find from the Atocha in early June prompted Fisher to intensify his treasure hunt, employing powerful sonar devices, metal detectors and as many as 50 divers.

And when news of Saturday's big find was radioed in from the wreck site, Fisher said he broke into tears. "I've envisioned millions of dollars and tons of emotion into this effort," he said.

The sea has exacted a heavy toll in yielding up its hidden treasure to Fisher. In 1975 an engine malfunction caused one of Fisher's salvage boats to capsize, drowning his 21-year-old son, daughter-in-law and another young diver as they slept.

Following Saturday's find, divers began hauling up silver bars and coins for examination by staff archaeologists. However, the bulk of the treasure will remain on the ocean floor until Fisher's experts have mapped out the wreck site. He then plans to show off his booty at his Key West treasure museum.

Meanwhile, Fisher's long quest — which has carried his boats across hundreds of square miles of the Atlantic Ocean — will continue.

He said he expects to find the remainder of the treasure scattered in smaller piles across the ocean floor. "We've got plenty of work left," Fisher said. "The stuff tumbled for miles as the ships went down. All we have to do now is continue following the trail and mop up the rest."

Ortega: Reagan preparing Americans for invasion

MANAGUA (R) — President Daniel Ortega has said Washington's warning against Nicaraguan involvement in "terrorist attacks" on its citizens was meant to prepare the American people for U.S. military action against Nicaragua.

Mr. Ortega also said that Nicaragua sent copies of its reply to the warning to the United Nations Security Council, the Contadora diplomatic group and the Non-Aligned Movement.

Speaking at a press conference, Mr. Ortega called the threat "totally absurd and irrational" but said it had its own logic for the Reagan administration.

"Part of the strategy of the United States is to consolidate internal opinion and convince its people that Nicaragua is a terrorist state," Mr. Ortega told reporters. "It (the warning) was directed at preparing the North American public for any kind of action the U.S. would launch against Nicaragua," he added.

The warning was delivered in a letter on Wednesday by U.S. Ambassador Harry Berghold to

the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry. The letter said the United States had information that Nicaragua was supporting plans to kill American officials in neighbouring Honduras.

It added that any such attack on Americans in Central America would be blamed on Nicaragua and bring stiff reprisals against those who carried out the act and those who supported it.

Nicaragua has vehemently denied the charges and in a protest note on Thursday Nicaragua accused the United States of looking for pretexts to attack Nicaragua.

Mr. Ortega said there has been no reaction to the protest note from Washington so far.

Mr. Ortega said he hoped the international organisations would take "the corresponding action" to prevent the U.S. from carrying out any military action against Nicaragua.

Washington, which accused Nicaragua of spreading Communist revolution to its Central American neighbours, has denied it plans to invade Nicaragua.

Fire guts main studios of Indonesian state radio

JAKARTA (R) — Fire gutted the main studios of Indonesia's official radio station in central Jakarta just a few blocks away from President Suharto's palace.

Radio Republik Indonesia (RRI), which continued broadcasts from a suburban branch building, said two employees died in the fire. The cause was not yet known.

More than 200 firemen fought the blaze, which broke out Saturday evening in the main building in Jakarta's Merdeka (freedom) Square.

By midnight, four floors of the seven-storey building were gutted, including all the main studios containing millions of dollars worth of equipment, RRI employees said.

Jakarta Governor Suprato, who rushed to the scene to inspect the damage, told Reuters the fire could have been caused by an electrical short circuit.

But a deputy fire chief said sabotage could not be ruled out until investigations were completed.

Firemen extinguished the blaze

during the night. By daybreak, the rear section of the building was a charred ruin.

It was the second big fire in Jakarta in 10 days. On July 10 a 10-storey shopping complex was burnt down in the bustling Chinatown area in a blaze which one newspaper said could have been anti-government arson.

A series of so far unexplained fires has hit the Indonesian capital over the past nine months after an extremist Muslim riot in north Jakarta last September in which 30 people died.

More than 30 people have been jailed in connection with the riot and three urban guerrilla bomb attacks in Chinatown which took place in October.

Investigations have not yet been able to prove whether several fires late last year in Jakarta, including blazes at a department store and a big office building, were sabotage or accidental.

But Armed Forces Commander Benny Murdani said in December they might have been connected with the extremist bombings.

4 die during Gujarat riots

NEW DELHI (R) — Four people were killed and several injured Sunday as fresh sectarian violence erupted through Gujarat state in west India despite a three-day-old peace agreement.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) said the latest victims died when police opened fire to disperse rioters in the curfew-bound centre of Ahmedabad, the state's biggest city.

The death toll in five consecutive days of sporadic clashes has reached 24 despite a truce signed on Friday by authorities and leaders of a protest against the reservation of quotas of jobs and college places for underprivileged castes.

More than 221 people have been killed since the campaign was launched in March, triggering widespread street battles between Hindus and Muslims.

The agreement included cancellation of the protest campaign in return for the dropping of an 18 per cent increase in the minority quotas and the release of jailed protesters.

The Times of India newspaper said Sunday the end of the campaign had little effect on the clashes between Hindus and Muslims and warned of more trouble ahead.

Three people were stabbed to death Saturday in clashes which broke out in Ahmedabad, a major textile centre, and a fourth died when police opened fire to break up a crowd.

9 killed in Andorran supermarket blast

PAS-DE-LA-CASE, Andorra (AP) — A powerful explosion apparently caused by leaking gas brought down all three stories in a supermarket, killing at least nine people and seriously injuring 16 others, the French representative to Andorra said.

Most of the victims were thought to be employees of the Supermarket Glac in this frontier town which borders on France, said Louis Debie.

The force of the Saturday afternoon blast left only one wall of the three-storey building standing and broke windows and doors of neighbouring buildings.

Rescue workers, using high beam lights, searched the ruins into the night for victims who

might be hidden in the rubble. Police had said earlier they feared that up to a dozen people may have been trapped.

"There was an incredible explosion and a powerful gust. We went outside and saw a woman being hurled against our wall," said the owner of a hotel located in front of the supermarket. He would not give his name.

"Fortunately, the place was nearly empty," said another witness, adding that most tourists are on their way by late afternoon.

The cause of the blast was not immediately established. Andorran authorities and French frontier police said it apparently was triggered by leaking gas which had accumulated in the basement. French firemen and helicopters

from Toulouse and Marseille joined Andorran rescue workers in taking victims to hospitals in Andorra and Foix and Perpignan in France. However, authorities said a heavy mountain fog was hampering rescue operations, and French rescue workers set up an emergency medical area near the supermarket.

Andorra is a 453-square kilometre mountain principality tucked in the eastern Pyrenees between Spain and France. Mountain accesses to Andorra from France were temporarily closed to all but emergency vehicles.

The official language is Catalan, but French and Spanish also are spoken among its population of about 33,000.

Pakistani police prepare to thwart riots

ISLAMABAD (R) — Riot police manned key intersections in the Pakistani capital of Islamabad Sunday to thwart a march threatened by Shi'ite Muslims demanding greater religious freedom.

Groups of 50 to 100 police with steel helmets, shields and batons stood close to the two main Shi'ite mosques as well as government buildings occupied during a major Shi'ite demonstration in 1980.

More were posted near the U.S. embassy, which was burned in 1979, and American-owned businesses and hotels. The embassy warned U.S. citizens to keep a low profile.

Police checked vehicles coming into Islamabad from nearby Rawalpindi, where the main Shi'ite Mosque was surrounded by more police to prevent sect leaders meeting there leaving for the planned Islamabad march.

The government has banned the demonstration planned by a faction of the Shi'ite organisation Tehrik Nifaz Fiqh-i-Jafria (TNFJ) and offered to meet TNFJ

leaders to discuss their demands. But the TNFJ faction rejected the offer, which it said was aimed at blocking a meeting of Shi'ite Ulama (religious scholars) also called for Sunday in Islamabad.

Leaders of the Shi'ites, who make up about 15 per cent of Pakistan's mostly Sunni Muslim 95 million population, want Shi'ite laws to also be implemented in the government's Islamisation drive.

They demand the right to hold their traditional mourning processions, which many Sunnis find offensive, and have more Shi'ite views expressed in religious programmes on state-controlled radio and television.

The TNFJ faction also wants to discuss a clash between police and Shi'ite demonstrators in Nuetra on July 6 in which 25 people were killed.

Local officials said pro-Iranian Afghan Shi'ites began firing on police trying to block a banned protest march called in all major Pakistani cities. The Shi'ites reject this and accuse the police of sta-

ting the gunfight. Shi'ites occupied the federal government secretariat in 1980 and forced martial law President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq to exempt them from an Islamic tax called Zakat.

Interior Minister Mohammad Aslam Khattak said on July 11 the government had proof the TNFJ faction which led the Nuetra protest was inspired from abroad and backed by disgruntled opposition politicians.

He did not name the foreign country but it was widely understood he meant neighbouring Iran, home of the only Shi'ite majority in any Muslim country. The TNFJ faction, which is a breakaway from the TNFJ mainstream group, denied Khattak's charge.

The government agreed last week to set up a 16-man committee to study Shi'ite demands and report back in six months.

TNFJ leaders have criticised the group as Sunni-dominated and demanded direct talks between themselves and the government.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SEAR
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CANADIAN CAPEES

Both vulnerable, North deals.

NORTH

♠ A J 8 6 5 4

♥ Q 9 8 4

♦ Void

♣ K Q 4

WEST

♠ K

♥ Q 10 9 7 3 2

♦ A J 2

♣ K Q 8 5 4 3

♠ J 9 7 6 3

EAST

♠ K 10 8 7 3

♥ A J 9 8 2

♦ A 5 2

SOUTH

♠ Void

♥ K 10 8 7 3

♦ A J 9 8 2

♠ A 5 2

The bidding:

North East South West

1 ♠ Pass 2 ♣ Pass

3 ♣ Pass 4 ♣ Pass

4 ♠ Pass 5 ♠ Pass

6 ♣ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠.

Canada's performance in the recent World Team Olympiad in Seattle was a disappointment to them and to their many supporters. They never quite challenged for a place in the quarterfinals. However, their quest for points in the late rounds did produce this spectacular hand.

Mark Molson, North, and Boris Baran, South bid to a slam on a hand

where some might think they barely had enough assets for game. West led the king of diamonds and, when East produced the seven, declarer decided that East was short in diamonds. Therefore, he was more likely to be long in hearts. Declarer decided to back his judgment to the nth degree.

He ruffed the opening lead in dummy and led the six of hearts, overtaking with the seven when East played low. When the finesse won, he continued with the jack of diamonds. West played low and declarer discarded a spade from the table.

When the jack held the trick, it was all over but the shouting. Declarer continued with the nine of diamonds and, when West again did not cover, declarer ruffed with dummy's queen of trumps!

Whether or not East overruled was immaterial. If he did not, declarer would simply continue with a trump from dummy. If he did, the king of hearts would pick up the jack. In both cases, dummy's ace of spades would take care of declarer's remaining diamond loser.

Not surprisingly, in the other room a slam was neither bid nor made. Canada gained 13 International Match Points from the deal.